

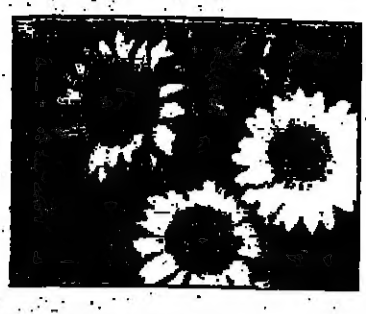
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Perennial favorites



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MKs Nissan Slonimsky (National Religious Party) and Abdul Wahab Darawshe (Democratic Arab Party) argue over an unofficial map of the redeployment plan at the Knesset yesterday. (Reuters)

Knesset approves Wye

Agreement passes 75-19, with 9 abstentions

By NIKKA GILBERT and DANNA HAFMAN

The Knesset ratified the Wye Memorandum late last night by a wide margin comprised mostly of the Left, paving the way for the government to move forward with the peace process with the Palestinians.

The vote, 75 to 19, with 9 abstentions, was turned into a motion of confidence in the prime minister after Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi proposed a no-confidence motion, which would have put the vote off until next Monday.

It was noted for the absence of seven cabinet members, including Likud ministers Limor Livnat, Silvan Shalom, Moshe Katsav, Yehoshua Matza and Tzahi Hanegbi, in addition to Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan (Tsomet) and Yisrael Ba'aliya's Yuli Edelstein.

The two National Religious Party ministers, Shaul Yahalom and Yitzhak Levy, voted against the accord, which could serve grounds for their dismissal from the government. The rest of the NRP MKs also voted against, as did Likud MKs Ze'ev Benyamin, Begin, Uzi Landau, David Magen, David Re'em and Reuven Rivlin. Tsomet MKs Moshe Peled and Haim Dayan, and Michael Kleiner (Gesher).

Before the vote began, Labor whip Elie Goldschmidt called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to "give thanks to Labor Party leader Ehud Barak," without whose support the accord would not have passed.

In his concluding address to the House, Netanyahu said that although he knows that many MKs do not want to give up parts of the Land of Israel, "we need a political agreement with our neighbors to bring peace for ourselves and for our children."

The vote culminated a two-day debate by the House, and took place only after MKs were shown the redeployment maps yesterday evening.

The defense establishment and the ministerial maps committee concluded the final preparation of the withdrawal maps at the Knesset in a meeting with settlement leaders. The Defense Ministry said that of 117 reservations submitted by the settlers, 61 were accepted.

The maps only show the 2 percent of the first phase of the 13% withdrawal from the West Bank, comprising 2% of Area C becoming Area B, and 7% of Area B being made Area A. Settler leader Pinchas Wallerstein said the withdrawal would be a "death blow" to 10 settlements, six of which would be 500 to 1,000 meters from Palestinian-controlled territory.

Earlier in the day, Edelstein resigned from the committee, saying that it only met for the first time yesterday, and that he "would not be a rubber stamp for the maps."

Only a handful of MKs arrived to view the maps in a side room in the Knesset under heavy guard to prevent the media from getting a glimpse before they are then passed on to the Palestinians.

A total of 100 MKs spoke on the accord, mostly before an empty House.

Earlier in the day, MKs had called for a halt to the debate since the MKs had not viewed the maps. MK Alex Lubotsky (The Third Way) argued that the maps were not a part of the agreement, and therefore should not be a factor in the Knesset voting on the accord.

The redeployment, which was expected tomorrow, will now take place either Friday or next week, officials at the Prime Minister's Office confirmed yesterday.

The new delay comes after the special cabinet meeting which is to decide whether or not the Palestinians have carried out their obligations under the Wye accord, was postponed until next week. This was done, according to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office, "in order to give the Palestinians more time to fulfill their commitments."

Netanyahu briefed US special envoy Dennis Ross last night on this decision, and on the process in general, before Ross left the region. His deputy, Aaron Miller, is expected to stay here through the weekend.

When ratifying the agreement last week, Netanyahu had stipulated that before any Israeli action, the cabinet would convene to assess Palestinian compliance with its part of the deal. The government is now waiting for proof that the PA has:

- arrested 10 out of the 30 listed fugitives.
- issued a decree against incitement.
- set up the framework for the collection of illegal weapons.
- reaffirmed the nullification by the Palestine National Council of sections of the Palestinian National Charter calling for Israel's destruction.

The Palestinians insist all these have been done, or are in the course of being carried out.

On Monday, Netanyahu had said that in addition to these conditions, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat would have to retract his belittling statement regarding raising arms to protect Jerusalem, and the statement of intention to declare a Palestinian state this May. Otherwise, Netanyahu warned, there would be no implementation of Wye.

See KNESSET, Page 2

Mofaz appoints inquiry into attack on soldiers

By ARNIE O'SULLIVAN and LIAT COLLINS

As Israel yesterday buried the three soldiers killed in Lebanon, an inquiry led by a brigadier-general was trying to determine how Hizbullah guerrillas penetrated so close to an IDF outpost in the security zone and planted a bomb.

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz made the unusual step of personally appointing the inquiry into the incident.

The General Staff inquiry no doubt undermines the authority of the Northern Command, but its commander, Maj.-Gen. Gaby Ashkenazy, said what was important was to "leave no stone

Economic growth down to 1.4%

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

Economic growth was an annual 1.4 percent during the third quarter, the lowest increase since 1989, according to Central Bureau of Statistics figures published yesterday.

The data was released in the shadow of the Bank of Israel's decision to increase interest rates by two percent and the subsequent Treasury attack on central bank policy.

On Sunday the cabinet will debate the state of the economy, the Prime Minister's Office said yesterday. Full story, Page 12

RIFLES OR RECONCILIATION?

The Palestinian National Covenant is a living ideology within the Palestinian Authority. Children's TV programs, summer camps, official school textbooks, religious discourses and the words of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat reflect the thirty three articles of the Covenant that has yet to be amended.

Extract from video clip sequence with young children and weapons, broadcast repeatedly on official Palestinian T.V.

Article 20
Claims of historical or religious ties of Jews with Palestine are incompatible with the facts of history... Nor do Jews constitute a single nation with an identity of its own...

Article 7
To educate the Palestinian... for armed struggle and to sacrifice his life...

Article 9
Armed struggle is the only way to liberate Palestine. Thus it is the overall strategy, not merely a tactical phase.

Official P.A. Television
3 November 1998

"The Jews are from the seed of Satan... They have forged history books like Genesis to claim ownership of the Palestinian land... May Allah protect us from this pathetic falsehood"

Religious Broadcast

Official P.A. Television
14 November 1998

"With our soul and blood we will redeem you, Palestine"

Yasser Arafat leads with this chant in a public rally attended by thousands.

Bigger meteor shower next year

By JUDY SEGAL

If you missed last night's eye-opening meteor shower, you have a chance to see an even better one exactly a year from now on November 17, 1999. Coming six weeks before the end of the millennium, it will be "a stupendous fireworks display for all the world to see, a 21st century gift," said Prof. Ariel Cohen, chairman of the department of atmospheric sciences and astronomy at the Hebrew University.

"There's a meteor shower every year, but next year's will be the most impressive meteor shower in 33 years, as the trail of tiny pieces of debris left by the Temple-Temple comet will be even closer to Earth," he added. Cloudy weather caused disappointment last night, and witnesses reported seeing only limited activity in the skies.

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Article 16 of the PLO Covenant states: "This Covenant and its amendments shall be subject to a referendum of the Palestinian people...".

Thousands support students in Jerusalem rally

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Thousands of students attended a mass rally in Jerusalem's Safra Square last night to demand a cut in university tuition fees.

"These thousands are a clear signal to the prime minister: the war on higher education has begun and we will get the people out on to the streets, because the public is with the students," student struggle leader Yoav Heller said. The striking student leaders put off a meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday, because the latter scheduled the meeting to coincide with the rally.

Channel 1 estimated the crowd at Safra Square to be 20,000. One of the speakers at the demonstration - which was also attended by lecturers and supporters of the students - was Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who expressed his support in their battle for lower tuition.

The negotiations between the students and representatives of the Treasury and Education Ministry were to continue last night.

Earlier yesterday Prime Minister's Office Director-General Moshe Leon said he had made "far-reaching" offers to the students, including a NIS 5,000 loan for every student, and increasing the number of dorms and scholarships for students who engage in voluntary social services.

But one of the student leaders, Lior Varona, said no progress had been made and accused Leon of disinformation.

The hunger strike launched by the students will be entering its 10th day today. By yesterday the number of hunger strikers who collapsed had reached 19.

Earlier in the day the protest tent of the hunger-striking students opposite the prime minister's residence was filled with visitors and supporters, including Labor Party leader Ehud Barak and Labor MKs Haim Ramon and Eli Goldschmidt.

Barak criticized Netanyahu's conduct in the crisis and demanded the cabinet ministers stop all their debates and concentrate on solving the tuition problem.

Ram Riteman, one of the hunger strikers, lashed out at the government's "contempt and obtuseness."

"The state must understand that if it breaks us it will break itself. I urge (the ministers) to think again, because this is a wonderful generation; the state cannot afford to lose it."

Domestic violence complaints up 5.5%

The number of domestic violence complaints filed with police rose 5.5 percent in the first 10 months of this year, compared to the same period in 1997.

A total of 18,711 complaints were filed in this period - 75.8% by women and 24.2% by men. Of these complaints, 135 involved rape or sexual assault.

These figures were released yesterday at a seminar in Bar Yam on domestic violence.

"First of all, we must ask ourselves if we are doing enough to set an example; our court system does not set such an example," Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said at the seminar.

He added that "the difference between using one's lips to commit a violent offense and using one's hands to do so is not that great."

Next month, 170 policemen will complete a course on dealing with domestic violence, including nine who will be working in the Arab sector, Police Insp.-Gen. Yehuda Wilk said.



Post Funds celebrate jubilee

Former Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek and his wife Tamar (center) were among more than 200 guests at a gala dinner marking the 50th anniversary of The Jerusalem Post Funds, last night at the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem. "The Post's" three charity funds raise \$500,000 a year for children, the elderly and new immigrants. "The funds enable our readers to contribute directly to the needs of the state and provides an indelible link between Jews around the world and Israel," Post President Paul Staszewski said. "It's the heart of the newspaper." Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who was the guest of honor, also praised the funds. Also pictured is 'Post' Publisher Tom Rose (standing at right) and museum director Batya Borowski, surrounded by young members of the Hora Ebrochim folk dancers of Pisgat Ze'ev in Jerusalem, who provided entertainment.

(Kevin Unger)

Investigation finds deficiencies in fire service

By LIAT COLLINS

An arrangement must be reached between the Fire and Rescue Service and civil aviation groups, Knesset Interior Committee chairman Micha Goldman said yesterday.

Goldman was responding to the publication of the report of the commission, which investigated the forest fires in October. The investigation found that planes that were sent to douse the flames arrived late and one plane did not use all the available water it was carrying. The commission also found that in some cases the Yasur helicopters used actually fanned the flames.

The report said the blazes in Canada Park near Jerusalem was

the result of negligence and the one at Nir Etzion probably started after a car caught fire. The fires in Haifa's Denya neighborhood and at Ein Hod were mostly like arson.

Regarding the Canada Park, the commission found, "The committee finds fit to note the statements of the people involved in fighting the fire (the firefighters and JNF-Keren Keyemet LeYisrael) that had the helicopter carried out its work and used the full amount of water it brought at the necessary time and location, it is likely that the fire would have been halted at an early stage."

Regarding the forest fires, the report said: "It was proven that a single service is not capable of meeting the command and control needs of this scope." It also noted that many fire trucks

are old and do not have four-wheel drive, which hindered access in many places. Mobilizing the firefighters was a slow procedure and the use of firemen from local authorities throughout Israel left the center of the country with a reduced force "which could have resulted in a tragedy if there had been large fires in the center of the country."

He said that since the Maccabiah is a national public event, the state should participate in paying compensation. Phoenix lawyer Gad Neshitz said the state attorney had tried to find a way of dividing the responsibility among the different bodies so that the state could further the compensation claims for the July 1997 disaster, in which four members of the Australian team died and many more were injured when a footbridge collapsed into the polluted Yarkon River.

The interim compensation fund

Knesset panel urges fund for Maccabiah victims

By LIAT COLLINS

The special parliamentary committee on the Maccabiah bridge disaster will increase its efforts to create an interim compensation fund for the victims by February 1999 to enable the families to receive the money without being dependent on the outcome of the judicial procedures.

Committee Chairman Micha Goldman (Labor) also said at a meeting yesterday that he would be willing to act as a central address to further this as long as the Attorney General's Office has no objections.

Duby Weissglass, a lawyer representing the World Maccabi Union, explained that although Maccabi had a comprehensive insurance policy with the Phoenix company, the company could insure only for limited accidents and not for a catastrophe.

He said that since the Maccabiah is a national public event, the state should participate in paying compensation.

Phoenix lawyer Gad Neshitz said the state attorney had tried to find a way of dividing the responsibility among the different bodies so that the state could further the compensation claims for the July 1997 disaster, in which four members of the Australian team died and many more were injured when a footbridge collapsed into the polluted Yarkon River.

He said this attempt had failed because of the Finance Ministry.

Finance Ministry representative Orit Lev said the Treasury objects to the idea of first paying the money and only afterwards deciding how to divide it, because it can lead to inflated sums which come out of the public's purse.

The interim compensation fund

would allow the victims' families to receive compensation from the Finance Ministry, according to the agreements reached by their representatives and state officials.

Once the court case is over, the fund would be paid back by those found responsible for the disaster.

Ron Weiser, president of the Australian Zionist Federation, said that although relations between the Australian Jewish community and Israel had returned to the warm level they were before the disaster, largely because of the judicial procedure and special committee's work, it still feels some outstanding issues need to be addressed.

In particular the community wants the suspension, if not the resignation, of the heads of the World Maccabi Union, Ron Bakalarz and Uzi Netanel.

Weiser said the Australian community has always sent large groups on programs in Israel, regardless of the threat of terror or war, but needed to have its confidence restored "that proper procedures are being followed."

Herb Keinan adds:

Menahem Shizaf, a lobbyist speaking on behalf of some of the families of victims of the disaster, called on Netanel and Bakalarz to resign, at least until the legal proceedings regarding the bridge collapse is settled.

Speaking at a press conference timed to coincide with the General Assembly of the UJA Federations of North America, Shizaf said a petition calling for the resignation of the two officials is being circulated among Israeli public figures in order to set a new standard for taking personal responsibility for tragic failures.

A Mother's Plea to the Delegates of the GA "Save My Son"

November 18, 1998

Dear Delegate,

I am sure that most of you will not recognize me. But, I too have been at many GAs over the last 16 years. Like all of you, I am a North American Jew, and I too share your concern regarding the well-being of the Jewish people both in Israel and abroad. But unlike most of you, I have never attended a GA as a delegate of any organization or federation.

You see, I am the mother of a missing child. My son Zachary and two other Israeli soldiers, Yehuda Katz and Tzvi Feldman, went missing in a battle with Palestinian and Syrian forces in Lebanon in 1982. Four years later, Israeli airforce navigator Ron Arad was also captured in Lebanon. Despite the efforts of five successive Israeli governments, Zachary and his friends have yet to return home. My son, like both his parents and many of you, is an American citizen.

We had hoped that the signing of the Oslo Accords would bring our ordeal to an end. At that time, Yasser Arafat returned half of our son's army dog-tag to the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Arafat promised the Prime Minister that he would soon divulge critical information regarding the fate of the missing boys. Yet, despite the fact that Israel has released thousands of Palestinian prisoners over the last six years, Mr. Arafat has yet to honor his signed agreements to disclose the information in his possession. Syrian President Assad, on the other hand, unconvincingly claims he has no knowledge whatsoever of the missing boys.

In an era when Israel's population is divided over almost every major issue, my missing son and his friends have afforded the Jewish world a rare opportunity to unite around, what may be, the only consensus issue in the country. Recent polls have demonstrated that Israel's MIAs are a matter of priority for Israelis of every religious and political persuasion. The resolution to this problem is in the best interest of all parties, and can only bode well for the prospects for peace in this region.

After 16 years of unfulfilled promises from the international community, it has become painfully clear to us that without your intervention, we may never see our sons again. Our missing children are not land or armaments - they are of no inherent geo-political value to anyone. Whether dead or alive, our sons belong with us - in Israel. So as aging parents of a missing soldier, and as fellow North Americans, we are turning to you, the delegates of the GA, to use your resources and influence to force the hands of those who have turned our children into the longest held hostages in Lebanon.

Sincerely,

Miriam Baumel
mother of MIA Zachary

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The public is invited to join Mr. and Mrs. Baumel tonight at a reception in the Dan Pearl Hotel, Keter Hall, 8-10 p.m.

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Delegates swap religious views

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Reports of a Kulturkampf between secular and religious Israelis may be grabbing headlines in both the Israeli and American Jewish press, but two presenters at the GA yesterday gave delegates hope there is another way.

Both Ruth Calderon, founder and executive director of the Alma College of Hebrew Studies and a self-declared secular Jew, and Avi Ravitzky, an observant Jew and professor of Jewish thought at the Hebrew University, agreed they could come up with a new social charter that would replace the spirit of enmity believed by many to characterize secular-religious relations here.

The two were speaking at one of a series of "Lunch and Learn" sessions at the GA. They chose as a "text" for study the current state of secular-religious relations in Israel.

Calderon, who spoke poignantly of her own passion for Jewish studies and those of other secular

people like her, insisted that such people should not be disenfranchised, even by well-meaning Reform and Conservative Jews.

Turning to the Kulturkampf issue, Calderon said: "I want to say here that I'm against war of any kind. I think it's a waste. When someone starts a war they usually have an interest of some kind, and I think this cultural war is run by people who want a war to happen."

"I would like to suggest a peace movement, like Peace Now, instead of a war movement. I don't want to fight any religious person, not even haredim, not Shas. I don't want to live in war... you never win a war. It would be a waste of precious years where we can build with education... You have to speak with the ones that you don't agree with."

"The Left understands that you have to speak to the PLO, and maybe even Hamas, but they don't believe that they have to speak to Habad. For God's sake, they're human beings, you can talk to them. And I would strongly sup-

GA '98 • ISRAEL

port such a peace movement. I don't think haredim are the enemy. I think a lot of what we ache about, a lot of what we miss is our doing, and a lot of it we can undo."

Ravitzky recalled visiting the Western Wall by chance when a military ceremony was taking place, and found himself reading Psalms while the army band played modern Hebrew songs.

"For a moment I didn't know to whom I belonged," he said.

He termed the efforts here to balance religion with modern Israel as sometimes bordering on impossible, noting that the battle was often seen as one between those who support either "Holy land or homeland." Nonetheless, he said, "the situation in Israel is not portrayed in the right way by the newspapers."

The problem is "not that we have radical extremes. It happens in almost every society... Our



Ruth Calderon (Shem-Tov/Hanari)

problem is if we let those same sides dictate the agenda of the majority. And despite the fact that Ruth and I have a deep ideological and theological disagreement, together we represent the majority that could achieve a new social charter."

He said he was sure Calderon and he could reach such a charter "within a week... It's not going to reflect myself, the education I want to give my own children, or hers, either, but it can be

achieved." He added that he wanted his and Calderon's grandchildren to be able to study together.

Calderon herself said that for the sake of such a charter, she would be willing to give up "technical details" like having roads closed on Shabbat, but never on matters of education, religious freedom or matters of personal status.

Prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's murder and its interpretation along religious/secular grounds by some observers led Ravitzky to believe "that everything is upside down in our conceptions with respect to the question of secular and religious identity. I believe it can be changed."

Blossom Siegel of Orange County Federation was encouraged by the presentation.

"This is something we really don't hear in the United States... this has to be the wave of the future," she said. "You don't have to agree with me and I don't have to agree with you, but give me the right to express my opinion, and I will certainly grant you the same."

AT THE GA



Mary Kleckner (Shem-Tov/Hanari)

If the El Al booth was popular on Monday, it was an absolute hit yesterday. The collector's hit of the walk-around crowd at the GA was the little foam rubber airplanes being given out by the airline.

"When I told them here that I was bringing these to give out, they laughed at us," said Mary Kleckner, who works in El Al's NY office. "I said I'd be the most popular person at the GA."

And sure enough, the 1,000 airplanes couldn't satisfy the demand and another box of 250 was brought in yesterday. Kleckner promises that more will be given out beginning in May, when El Al begins celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Overheard in the hall: "You know what just struck me? All the Israelis are wearing ties, and the North Americans aren't. It's like each side thought they should adopt the custom of the other."

A reception will be hosted tonight by Miriam and Yona Baumel and the International Coalition for Missing Soldiers in order to push the US government to help release classified documents relating to the disappearance of Zachary Baumel, who was captured in 1982. Yesterday was his 38th birthday. The reception will be held at the Keter Hall in the Dan Pearl hotel from 8 to 10 p.m.

Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, founder and president of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, was happy that the 5,000 Jewish delegates were holding the GA in Israel, albeit for the first time. But his organization, the largest single contributor to the UJA with donations totalling \$7 million, represents a group of annual visitors.

"I would just hope that in time, Jewish leadership would be able to understand that not all Christians are antisemitic, not all Christians are missionaries, and to be able to break the pattern of the stereotype by acknowledging that there are millions of Christians who with their feet - as recently as a month ago 5,000

came here to this very same hall - are coming here every year and doing the same thing of solidarity. And I'd like them to be acknowledged."

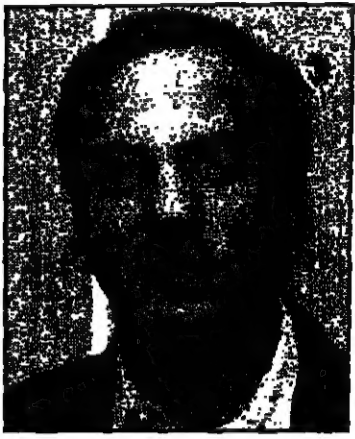
"I am a bit upset that this room is almost empty. We expected more people to be here," said industrialist Dov Lautman, who co-chaired the GA session on the implications of the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Lautman, who had been Rabin's economic adviser, said that after three years it is still difficult to understand what had happened - that a Jew murdered a Jewish prime minister.

Some Americans have told him they have felt uncomfortable with the film of the murder which was shown at the GA's festive opening on Monday night, but he emphasized that "this is a reality we have to face."

Underlining the importance of continuing the peace process and making peace with neighbors countries, Lautman said, "This will help us to make peace among us."

With pluralism a major issue in the American Jewish community, it was only natural that one of the sessions yesterday was entitled "Enhancing Jewish



Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein (Shem-Tov/Hanari)

unity: models of religious tolerance in Israel and North America."

Steven Kravitz, past president of the Miami federation, related how his community is bridging the great denominational divide. "We reconfigured our Jewish Community Center in North Dade, with the input of the Orthodox community from the beginning, so we have a glatt kosher restaurant that is acceptable to all segments of the community. We reconfigured the exercise room so that there actually can be curtains on windows and special hours for members of the orthodox community. We have two swimming pools. No one objected from the non-observant community, and it has been a wonderful model."

Neeman Committee, take note. Greer Fay Cashman and Herb Keiron contributed to this report.

Feminists present case

By RUTHIE BLUM

The International Convention Center's Dulsin Hall was packed with women of all ages (and a sprinkling of men) during the lunch/study session presented by authors Blu Greenberg and Naomi Ragen yesterday. Entitled "Many Roads to Jewish Study," the session began just as the 300 or so participants finished munching on boxed lunches distributed outside of the lecture hall/dining room.

Greenberg's and Ragen's personal accounts of their relation to and journey through Judaism as Orthodox women - and later as Orthodox feminists - were as moving as they were entertaining.

Greenberg, who currently chairs the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance, evoked laughter when she related how her father got his daughters to vie for the privilege of shining his shoes before the Sabbath by calling out: "Girls, who wants to do a mitva?"

Ragen, who throughout her talk emphasized the difference between piety and the appearance of piety, recalled accompanying her children to the playground during her early days in Israel, and overbearing other young mothers arguing over which margarine was more kosher. Ragen, who had been reading John Donne, the metaphysical poet, had a rude awakening. "What am I doing

here?" she asked herself, referring to the disillusionment she suffered thinking that here she would experience a higher form of Judaism.

Greenberg - one of whose mottoes is "If there's rabbinic will, there's a halachic way" - thanked other streams of Judaism for helping her incorporate feminism into Orthodoxy.

Though each of the lectures was interesting, the questions gave a better glimpse into what is bothering religious feminist women today.

The most "militant" question was posed by Debbie Weisman from feminist congregation Kehilat Yedidia, who wanted a discussion of texts (like other sessions held at the GA), not personal accounts, and considered this proof that women's issues were not taken seriously.

Donning a knitted kippa, Amber Powers, a visiting rabbinical student from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College near Philadelphia, was struck by the fact that the comments from the audience "did not reflect the content of the discussion... if there were proper forums in which to lobby for specific concerns, women wouldn't have to use a lecture like this as a lobby for their different groups."

Ellen Freedman, from Toronto, disagreed. "We are all here at the GA for one universal purpose," she said. "For tikun olam (making the world a better place)."



Ellen Freedman (Shem-Tov/Hanari)



Amber Powers (Shem-Tov/Hanari)



Birthright program launched

Philanthropist Charles Bronfman (left) and Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky, who serves as head of the interministerial committee on the Diaspora, launch the 'Birthright' program yesterday at a ceremony in Jerusalem. The program is aimed at bringing thousands of Diaspora youth to Israel. The program, conceived by MK Yossi Beilin (Labor), is to be jointly financed by Bronfman, financier Michael Steinhardt and other Diaspora philanthropists, the Israeli government and local Jewish federations.

(Isaac Hanari/Hanari)

Participants search for new 'touchstones'

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

After hours of traveling, registering, and security checks at Monday night's opening ceremony, GA participants got down to perhaps their single most important task yesterday morning: dialogue.

Seated at circular tables, GA delegates from North America and Israel shared ideas, hopes and concerns. With the help of guests and Israeli "facilitators," the two sides reached out to each other, if only for a few hours, and if only across a space much smaller than the gap many believe exists between the two communities.

"Connections and disconnections" was how United Jewish Appeal President Richard Wexler, who chaired one of several "cross-cultural dialogue" sessions, aptly described the topic of discussion.

"This is the first real opportunity

Israelis and our brethren from North America have had to really interact, beyond the organizational level," Jerusalem Post vice chairman Hersh Goodman, who hosted the session, explained at its outset.

With Israel marking its jubilee, it was "very fitting" to hold the gathering in Jerusalem, he said.

"It's pretty clear to most of us that we've reached a point of midlife crisis, and that the touchstones that our parents [and] grandparents had - the Holocaust, the '48 war, the Six Day War, Entebbe - are not necessarily the touchstones of this generation."

Seeking such new touchstones, two American lawyers, two visiting Jewish college graduates, Jewish activists from the US and Canada, an Israeli navy cadet and a journalist embarked on a dialogue.

Talk soon focused on a film shown before the session in which an

Israeli girl spoke of feeling "more Israeli than Jewish."

Naomi Jacobson of California, on the Oetzma program for college graduates, said this feeling stemmed from twentysomethings wanting to identify with "whatever is more at risk in this case, to this girl's mind, Israel as a state."

But Zehava Shapira, a Jewish Agency worker, disagreed. "Tomorrow these same kids will get up and move to France and be French," she said, criticizing what she views as a lack of Jewish identity.

"Many Israelis...thought that being in Israel was sufficient," said Diane Aviv of the Washington office of the Council of Jewish Federations. "If we, wherever we



Lautenberg (Shem-Tov/Hanari)

live as Jews, don't teach and pass on our tradition through custom and culture, Jewishness doesn't resonate in a meaningful way, only your country does."

World Union of Jewish Students director Ze'ev Shafir welcomed greater involvement by Diaspora Jews, but Canadian delegate Cele

Steinberg said the "one-denominational" nature of religious life here makes it difficult for Diaspora Jews to feel a sense of partnership.

She urged more educational projects stressing pluralism for Israeli youths and adults to correct that impression.

That idea was strongly supported by guest speaker Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey. He sharply criticized that his son-in-

law, a Reform convert honored as an outstanding young Jewish leader in Boston and in Israel for the GA, was not recognized as Jewish in Israel.

"I felt the house that I helped build wasn't open to me," he said of the Conversion Bill debate, but added "it doesn't mean we take ourselves out of the family."

Urging continuing Jewish solidarity despite the differences, he said: "We have a stake in Israel as we have no place besides our own homes in the US. This place matters to us, this place makes Jews, some of whom will never see Israel."

Some delegates termed the sessions potentially the most important of the GA. Said Indianapolis Federation participant Chuck Cohen: "I definitely hope something will emerge [from this], and I definitely think there's something to be gained by the dialogue."

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سكيا من الامم



Ethiopian immigrants hold up pictures of relatives who are waiting to immigrate, yesterday during a protest outside the Jerusalem International Conference Center. (Shana-Tov/Hanari)

Knesset panel: No stop to Ethiopian aliya

By LIAT COLLINS

Israel has not stopped the immigration of Ethiopian Jewry or closed its gates to the Falash mura or others eligible under the Law of Return, said Knesset Aliya and Absorption Committee chairwoman Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) yesterday. However, the state stands firm in its decision that the Jewish compound in Addis Ababa should remain closed and asked that would-be immigrants remain in their home areas until they have permits to immigrate.

This policy was reaffirmed at yesterday's meeting of the Knesset Aliya and Absorption Committee on the situation of Ethiopians waiting to emigrate to Israel.

The committee also called for the emigration process of the Jews in Qura to be speeded up. Some have been waiting more than seven years.

Blumenthal blasted the organizations which, she said, instead of keeping the Addis Ababa compound closed, are deliberately repopulating it to pressure the government.

"Today there are groups which are spitting in the face of the state and accusing it of racism and a dis-

regard of human lives," Blumenthal said.

She said these groups are playing on the conscience of US Jewry while slandering Israel and harming both the immigrants here and those who want to emigrate there.

Labor MK Adisu Masala accused the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry (NACOEJ) of causing a split in the Ethiopian community for economic interests.

Barbara Ribakove-Gordon, chairwoman of NACOEJ in the US, rejected the accusations. She said the group had never called on the Falash Mura to leave their villages or encouraged them to gather at the closed compound and, on the contrary, had tried to prevent it.

She said the group had not violated its promise to the Israeli government and most of its budget is spent on absorption activities in Israel. Gordon said, however, that the group could not ignore the stories that the Falash mura have been attacked and their homes burned.

Moshe Batah, national coordinator of the Ethiopian immigrant groups, said the rumors of pogroms are unfounded. He said immigration should be only in

accordance with the Law of Return.

A Foreign Ministry representative, Shlomo Avital, said the consul in Ethiopia had not found evi-

dence supporting the rumors of pogroms and attacks. He said the stories are the result of disinformation and attempts to blacken Israel's name.

Holocaust group boycotts restitution awards ceremony

By MINA GILBERT

The national umbrella group for Holocaust survivors boycotted a Knesset ceremony yesterday to honor those involved in the restitution of Jewish property from the Holocaust era since none of its members were awarded for their efforts.

The target of the group's anger was MK Avraham Herschson (Likud), head of the Knesset Committee for the Restitution of Jewish Property, who issued the awards to Israeli and world Jewish leaders, together with Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

"This is not the first time that Herschson has tried to ignore the contribution of the Holocaust survivors association. This is an ongoing policy aimed at reducing to an absolute minimum the influence and status of the survivors group," the Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors said in a statement. "Herschson knows full well the contribution of the leaders of the group, who work in a volunteer capacity, in obtaining restitution for survivors."

The group said Herschson's actions are apparently due to the



New York City Comptroller Alan Hevesi (Isaac Hanari)

group's position on how to make use of Holocaust restitution funds.

In his address, Herschson called for unity, saying, "There is no rift or disagreement in this battle, since all of the partners know that a crumbling of the front - and there were outsiders who tried to divide - will be the first step towards failure."

Netanyahu noted that "there is no statute of limitations on Holocaust claims." "This was the largest act of robbery in all history," he added. He praised those who spearheaded the campaign for their "unending efforts, which succeeded beyond expectations."

At the same time, Netanyahu heaped praise on the Swiss government for its leaders' understanding the importance of reaching a resolution. "They did the right thing," he said, noting that it was not easy amid the unending pressure and attacks they endured.

World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman, who was granted an award, said: "We know there is a lot more to be done, and we shall do it, but now we have established beyond a shadow of a doubt moral and financial restitution and our work will go on."

The other honorees included US Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, New York City Comptroller Alan Hevesi, Jewish Agency chairman Avraham Burg, Zvi Barak, co-chairman of the World Jewish Restitution Organization, and Bobby Brown, the prime minister's adviser on World Jewish Affairs.

Eizenstat, who led the US government's support for Holocaust restitution, told the audience in a phone call from Brazil that the US government's report on Nazi gold and displaying the role of neutral countries were key factors in spearheading progress in restitution claims. He noted that the next issues to be tackled are that of communal property, especially Central and Eastern Europe, in art and insurance.

Brown said that he estimates that insurance claims will be "much higher" than the \$1.4b. settlement reached with Swiss banks last summer.

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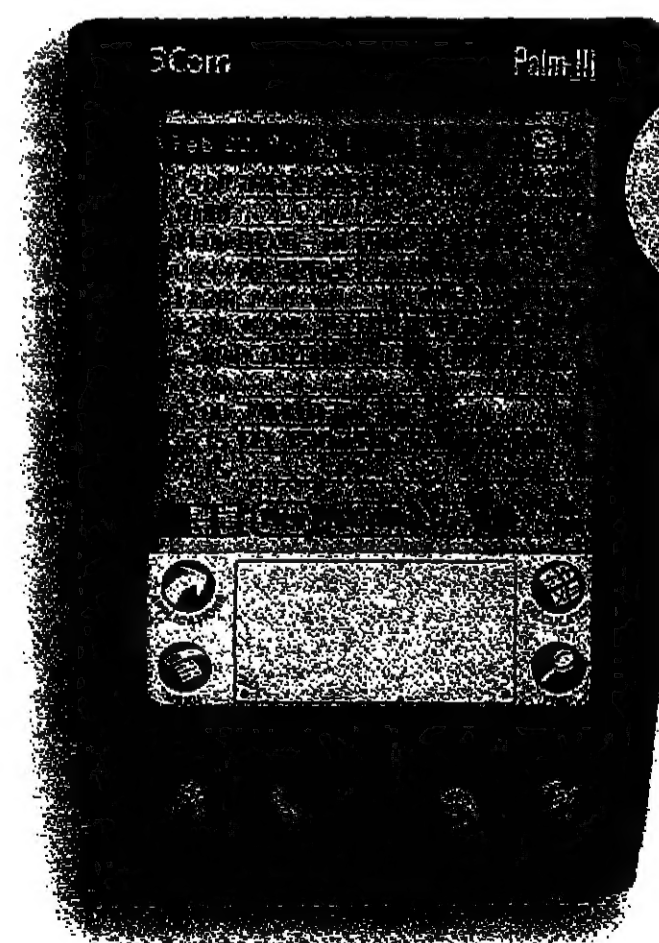
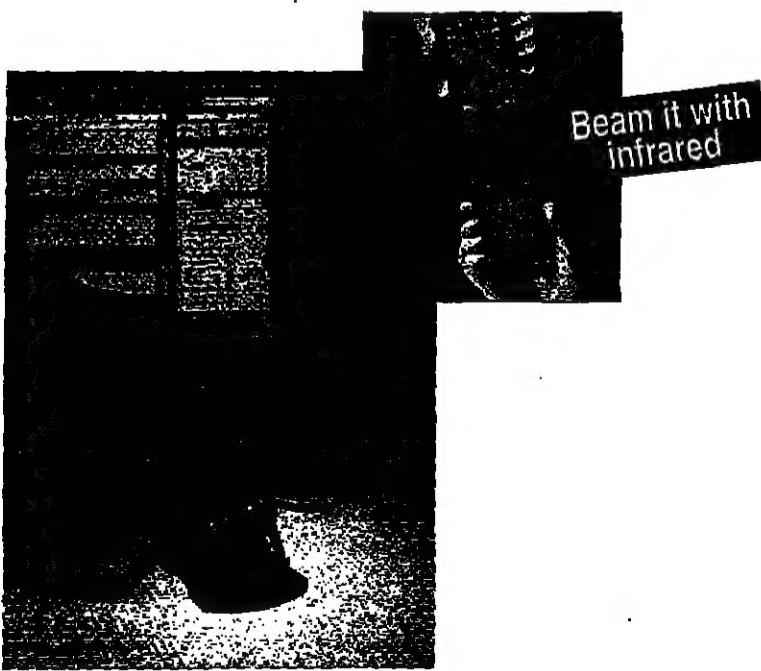
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Balance of blame

Two speeches, one by Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, the other by Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, have been lumped together in what is being dubbed a war of words. The speeches could be loosely regarded as each side restoring its credentials among the anti-Oslo set following the Wye agreement. Not all ways of rhetorically letting off steam are equal, however, and in this case it is the Palestinian version which is much more problematic.

The first outburst came from Arafat, who at a rally in Nablus pledged to declare a Palestinian state on May 4, 1999, "with noble Jerusalem as its capital, whether they like it or not." Next, on Palestinian radio and in Ramallah, Arafat threatened to abandon the "path of peace" if Israel did not withdraw from territory.

"Our rifles are ready and we are ready to raise them if they try to stop us from praying in Jerusalem," Arafat declared.

How time flies. Just 26 days ago, Arafat stood after signing the Wye agreement in the White House and spoke movingly of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as his "co-partner" in peace and closed with these words, spoken in Arabic: "Your security is our security, and peace for your children and our children. ... We will not retreat, we will not go back to violence and confrontation."

Arafat had never before expressed his commitment to the peace process in such categorical terms, or with such empathy for Israeli security needs. He did not convince many skeptics that this time, the promises to eschew violence would be a strategic choice, rather than a tactical maneuver. At most, the critics claimed, Arafat would keep his commitments until Wye's three-month implementation period was over, and then all bets are off.

Even these skeptics would have been hard-pressed to predict the blinding speed with which Arafat unsheathed his saber - before Israel had withdrawn from any land, before the agreement had even been ratified by the Knesset. Yesterday, after Netanyahu said that Israel would suspend all withdrawals until Arafat had retracted his threats and after the US State Department called such threats "wrong," Arafat did return to his former conciliatory tones. In Jericho, Arafat said, "I repeat that for us peace is a strategic choice, and declare that any problems that arise in final status talks will be solved through the peaceful means, friendship and negotiations, and not by other means."

Obviously, these rapid flip-flops lead Israelis to wonder which Arafat to believe.

Even more problematic are assessments cited by Likud MKs Ze'ev Binyamin Begin, Uzi Landau, and Dan Meridor to the effect that even now, Arafat and Hamas may have an agreement whereby Hamas terrorism may be conducted against Israel so long as it does not emanate from the territories under Palestinian control. The existence of such an agreement was implied

by a statement by PA security chief in Gaza Mohammed Dahlan, who condemned the barely thwarted attempt by a suicide bomber to blow up a bus full of Israeli schoolchildren in the Gaza strip last month, not on principle, but because the attack took place in an area under Palestinian control. Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz reportedly confirmed to a Knesset committee yesterday that negotiations are taking place between Arafat and Hamas to suspend terrorism for three months while the Wye withdrawals are implemented.

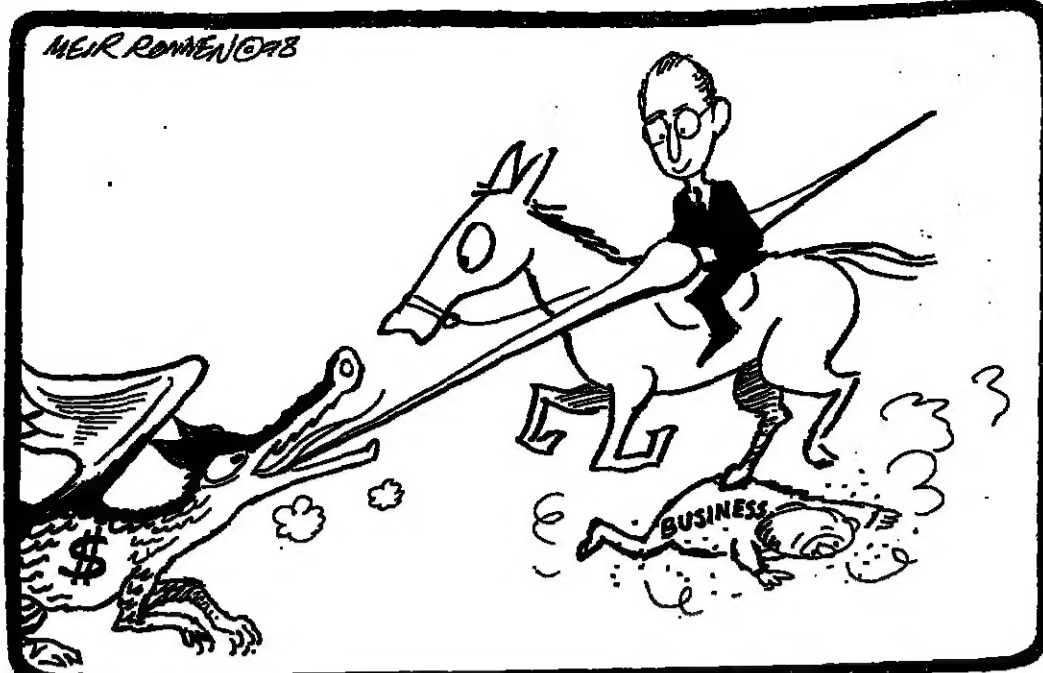
In facing such deadly duplicity, Israel has two options: pulling out of the peace process entirely, and suspending the process until it is clear that Arafat is truly combating terrorism rather than simply postponing it. To be effective, Israeli demands must be backed by the US rather than the US blaming Israel for holding up the peace process.

Ironically, it was Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon who provided the most effective distraction from Arafat's unacceptable threats. In a speech at a Tsomet Party meeting in Tel Aviv, Sharon said, "Everyone should take action, should run, should grab more hills." Sharon later clarified that he was referring only to empty hilltops within the designated boundaries of existing settlements, not the creation of new settlements.

Sharon's call to "grab hilltops" was damaging to Israeli interests because it instantaneously created a balance of blame between Israel and the Palestinians, thereby reducing the pressure on Arafat to fully implement the Wye agreement. In fact, there is a world of difference between Sharon's call for building on hilltops and Arafat's call to arms, and possible deals with Hamas - one is provocative, but within Oslo; the other violates Oslo's core bargain, and threatens human lives.

Sharon's comments are also somewhat bizarre coming from a senior minister in the government, when it is the government that tightly controls building permits in the territories. In essence, Sharon is suggesting that the settlers force the government's hand, just as he urged the cabinet to send Netanyahu (and himself) to Wye with tight "shackles." If Sharon has so little influence that he must call for public pressure on the government, it is hard to understand what business he has sitting in it.

In a further irony, the more significant news from Sharon's speech was his hinting that a smaller Palestinian state was preferable to Palestinian autonomy over all of Judea, Samaria and Gaza. The reference to autonomy was clearly to the Camp David Accord, an agreement that he was deeply involved in defending as a member of the Begin cabinet. Though Sharon has alluded to the inevitability of a Palestinian state before, it is the first time he has done so as foreign minister - an act of much greater import than urging expansion of settlements that his own government will not permit.



Who misled Clinton?

Who misled US President Bill Clinton, so that in his statement on Saddam's capitulation to the UN's decisions, he made a point of not giving Arab support for the US position? Who told half the truth to the president, about the Arab countries' advice to Iraq to comply with the UN resolutions, and concealed the other half? The statements of Arab opposition to the American threat to use force to enforce these same resolutions?

It is likely that someone was interested in promoting the incorrect concept that any Israeli action is liable to damage the Arab countries' support of America's position. On the basis of this, the administration requested, during the tense period before the agreement, that Israel undertake not to respond to the launching of Scud missiles against it, lest this harm Arab support for the US position. Israel, however, wouldn't commit itself in advance to any future action, just as it rejected the claim that issuing tenders for construction on Har Homa was liable to damage the US in its dispute with Iraq.

It is true that the Arab countries, like all the member states of the Security Council, were concerned that Saddam's brinkmanship might prove fatal to Iraq, and thus begged the Iraqi leader not to go too far, but to try to resolve the crisis by diplomatic means. But it is hard to find even one statement by an Arab country supporting the use of air-borne force against Iraq to compel compliance with the Security Council's resolutions.

On the contrary, even the Saudi defense minister stated in an interview to the Saudi newspaper *Al-Awsat* that "Saudi Arabia will not allow its bases to be used in a military action against Iraq."

And in Damascus this week, an official source noted that the declaration of eight Arab states (the Gulf states plus Egypt and Syria) included not only a call to Iraq to obey the UN resolutions (which was singled out for praise by Clinton) but also a call to US to refrain from any military actions against Iraq. Even Arafat said, in his speech in Ramallah on

MOSHE ZAK

Sunday, that he had asked Clinton not to use force against Iraq, but to find a diplomatic solution.

It is highly doubtful whether such a "coalition," that made no promise to support the US during a military action, deserved such American praise, nor the American demands that Israel not respond even if attacked.

WHILE it's true that the Arab countries expressed their support for compliance with the UN resolutions, these statements didn't contradict Saddam's intentions. He also wanted a diplomatic solution. But he stretched the rope till the last minute, to obtain more convenient terms for UN supervision of the construction and accumulation of his weapons of mass destruction.

He knew in advance that he had no chance of removing the economic sanctions imposed by the UN unless Iraq fulfilled the Security Council's instructions. So he tried to modify the nature of UNSCOM supervision to follow the model of "Ongoing Monitoring and Verification" already being used by the International Atomic Energy Agency (based in Vienna) - that is, occasional visits by inspectors, instead of UNSCOM permanently installed in Baghdad, searching everywhere.

The UNSCOM inspectors found documents indicating the purchase of components for weapons of mass destruction, while the IAEA inspectors had never found anything in their frequent visits, and so authorized the "proofs" supplied by Iraq that it wasn't developing nuclear weapons.

During the Gulf War, it became clear that the IAEA inspectors had been fooled. Earlier still, in 1981, Israel had brought conclusive proof about the nuclear plant built by Iraq near Baghdad - by bombing the plant.

By creating frequent crises with UNSCOM, Saddam is achieving one of his objectives: to prevent inspection of Iraq's whole military manufacturing system. He makes

them break off inspections for a few weeks, to conceal the activity that goes on during the breaks. When he realizes that the inspectors are approaching a hiding place for weapons of mass destruction, he manufactures a crisis so he can move the suspicious components elsewhere.

So the call to Saddam to allow the UN inspectors to return didn't damage his reputation and didn't indicate Arab support of the US in its intentions to bomb Iraq.

AFTER Saddam's experience in February, when the American bombing threat dissolved with the assistance of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the Iraqi president had every reason to believe that Clinton would back down at the last minute and not use force against Iraq.

But the Arab countries warned him not to raise the stakes too high, so as not to risk other Arab interests that are on the table, especially the Palestinian issue. These warnings had nothing to do with supporting America's threat to use force.

But these Arab requests did give Saddam an excuse to justify stopping on the brink: Now he could claim to his people that, along with as well as blocking American threats, he had taken into account the question of Arab solidarity. And for the sake of Palestine, for which much Iraqi blood has been shed, he had agreed to respond positively to the Security Council's demands.

I don't begrudge the credit that the Arab countries got from Clinton, even if it is based on inaccurate facts and a mistaken assessment of the Arab position. Perhaps it suits the administration to claim that all countries, including Arab countries, demanded that Iraq back down before the UN's resolutions, and thus to present Saddam as having given in to international pressure, including that of Arab countries.

But this can't be seen as the building of an Arab-US coalition that supports action against Iraq. No such coalition exists, and the illusion of its existence clearly doesn't justify imposing limitations on Israel's actions in matters relating to its security.

Sharon's pragmatism

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon went back to the basics of pragmatic Zionism in his appearance the other night before a forum of the right-wing Tsomet Party.

Sharon came out in favor of territorial compromise and the establishment of a Palestinian state in part of the West Bank in the short term, rather than hold out for an ideological stance of an undivided Palestine and a larger state in the long term, the chances of which were extremely slim.

It was the same approach which brought Ben-Gurion to reject moves towards full peace agreements with Israel's neighbors in the 1950s, leaving the difficult post-1949 boundaries fluid and open to future change. At the same time, Ben-Gurion was one of the first statesmen who came out against continuing Israeli occupation of the whole of the West Bank and its Palestinian population in the heady days following the Six Day War. This was not a contradiction - but simply an appreciation of the realities, of the pragmatic approach which had always guided his policies.

IT WAS only after the occupation of the West Bank in 1967 and the expansion of Israeli control to areas beyond her sovereign jurisdiction that the pragmatic approach came under fire from the proponents of a Greater Israel.

For the two to three decades prior to the Oslo Agreements, it had been the ideological, mystical, irredentist approach of the right wing which dictated Israeli government policy in the West Bank, thus making it so difficult to arrive at any form of dialogue or peace agreement with the Palestinians.

And even since Oslo, the settlers and their supporters have attempted to bury the agreement with their non-pragmatic approach to the issue of territorial compromise - "hold on to everything, don't

DAVID NEWMAN

Gurion, that eventually agreed to the idea of partition, arguing that it was better to have a state on a small part of the territory in the short term, rather than hold out for an ideological stance of an undivided Palestine and a larger state in the long term, the chances of which were extremely slim.

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And even since Oslo, the settlers and their supporters have attempted to bury the agreement with their non-pragmatic approach to the issue of territorial compromise - "hold on to everything, don't

give up a centimeter, and never mind the consequences."

Today's debate about partition is only different to that of the 1930s and 1940s with respect to the actual territorial configuration of just how the boundaries will be drawn. It no longer appears likely that a final territorial arrangement and the establishment of a Palestinian state will bring about a return to the pre-1967 boundaries.

This new reality is, in no small part, due to the establishment of the West Bank settlements during the past two decades. Support them or not, the West Bank settlements have created territorial facts which are proving almost impossible to remove or to evacuate, similar to the role played by the pre-state settlements in determining the boundaries of the new state during the War of Independence.

The pragmatism of 1998 is not that of 1936 or 1967. The realities have changed, the population has grown, settlements have been established in new areas, the balance of regional power has changed, and perhaps most significantly, the rights of the Palestinian people have been recognized. The precise parameters of a political agreement are determined by today's realities, not those of yesteryear.

Sharon is well aware of this when he urges the settlers to grab further land. He knows that this constitutes a much stronger bargaining policy in future negotiations than do the endless quotations of biblical sources and rabbinical decrees concerning the indivisibility of the land, meaningless to eighty percent of the Israeli population.

Despite his right-wing credentials, Sharon is proving, as he did once before in Sinai, to be a true inheritor of the school of pragmatic Zionism.

Attitude problem

DAVID CLAYMAN

Despite systematic misunderstandings, Jews in America and Israel - until recently - did have a shared sense of being Jewish, however that term be defined. Indeed, it was the land of Israel and the people of Israel and the State of Israel which served as the glue to bind them together. Yet, with the passage of time, this commitment to Israel, which inspired involvement and solidarity, has given way to a vague sense of affinity and even disinterest.

American Jewry's apparent estrangement from Israel stems to a certain degree from the very intimacy of that relationship. American Jews became involved in Israeli neighborhoods and gained direct access to Israeli elites and policymakers, Israel became less than the simplistic and evocative symbol that the fundraisers had made it out to be. American Jews discovered that Israel is not the fifty-first state of the United States of America.

Unfortunately, the gap between the living reality of Israel and Israel as a mythic symbol has widened in recent years.

Israelis who ignored or took for granted or were even contemptuous of their American Jewish kin are now concerned that Jewish attachments to Israel are weakening and that American Jews are losing interest in Israel.

The fact of the matter is that Israelis do not understand nor appreciate nor particularly care about American Jewry. As the saying goes - Israelis like everything American except American Jews.

This is in part because Israelis are victims of their Zionist education which mandated a belief in *shilul hagola* (the denigration of the Diaspora). Zionist doctrine mandated a Diaspora where Jews could never be wholly at ease and secure.

But Israel as a solution to Diaspora Jewry's existential problem did not take into account an American Jewry that does not feel they face any existential problem.

PERHAPS the time has come for Israel to stop justifying its existence by denigrating Jewish life outside of Israel. One only has to read the Israeli press to understand how Israelis learn disdain for their fellow Jews.

A study years ago surveyed Israeli press coverage of American Jewish life. It found that Israeli correspondents in the US write about Israeli self-interests in the American Jewish community. AIPAC and the Presidents Conference, foreign aid and tourism to Israel are covered, but virtually nothing about the internal structure of dynamics of the American Jewish community.

Similarly, Israeli schools ignore teaching about the largest Jewish community in the world, whether it be in the context of current events, history of Jewish studies. Israelis learn little and know little, and hence care little, about American Jews.

Along with this is a growing awareness that American Jews are no longer driven by guilt or even nostalgia. At ease with themselves and their lives, they have transubstantiated from American Jews into Jewish-Americans. Being Jewish for Jewish-Americans is no longer the subject or object of their lives.

Correspondingly, Israelis are fast becoming Jewish Israelis rather than Israeli Jews. As such, the commonality of their Jewishness performs will be mediated by their essential and very different identities as American and Israelis. This requires greater knowledge and understanding of each other and, hopefully, concomitant respect and appreciation.

Zionism should no longer require exhorting the Diaspora or assuming marginality for the Diaspora. Zionism should mean teaching and inculcating and experiencing the inextinguishable bond between the land of Israel, the people of Israel, and the State of Israel.

The relationship should be one of trust and respect and mutuality. Israelis should study and encounter and experience the creativity and achievements and reality of the American Jewish community. Once there is a degree of mutual respect and understanding, interaction, sharing, and interdependence may follow.

Israel should continue to be an evocative symbol for American Jews. However, to perform this function, Israel's living reality cannot be too disparate or contradictory to Israel as an idealized symbol. Israelis will not only have to change their attitudes towards American Jewry, but they also must shape an Israeli reality which can justify American Jewry's idealized notion of Israel as a powerful and meaningful symbol.

The writer is the Israel director of the American Jewish Congress.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A MILITARY DISGRACE

Sir. - As a father to a combat soldier in Lebanon, I'm furious over the mistreatment of our boys, the best Israel has got. Three of them were killed and four wounded totally unnecessarily on Monday.

Lack of discipline and inferior instructions from officers made this happen. According to the traumatic television pictures, they were not properly guarded, far too close together and obviously unaccompanied by an experienced officer.

This was a daylight attack and it should not have been any problem to spot the explosives. The warfare Israel is conducting in Lebanon is highly risky, due to bad management. Under the current situation, Israel should withdraw, after conducting the necessary physical arrangement of the immediate border area.

Politicians should not be allowed to play with our sons' lives, like Ariel Sharon did in Lebanon. Put an end to this craziness.

RICHARD CONRICUS

Zichron Ya'acov.

KOSHER GA

Sir. - As a volunteer to the General Assembly of UJA and Federations of North America, I received my instruction kit. In reviewing the material I found a listing of suggested restaurants and was surprised to note that a selection of non-kosher restaurants was also listed.

Is it too much to expect that the GA, meeting in Jerusalem, would sponsor only kosher restaurants? We look askance at federation and UJA functions in North America that are not kosher, but our guests come to Jerusalem, probably for the first time, after thousands of miles and dollars and are advised on non-kosher restaurants!

Wouldn't it be in the spirit of Jerusalem to make every effort to show the variety and abundance of kosher cooking that is available here? I know that in most cities in North America it is not possible to obtain kosher meals, so every opportunity should have been given to the delegates to enjoy the riches of kosher cooking.

JUDITH PERLMAN

Jerusalem.

REAL ZIONISTS

Sir. - I would like to add my welcome to those many official words of welcome to the GA members now visiting Israel.

But the slogan "Many People, Many Roads, One Heart" though exciting, is just another slogan, hollow of all meaning unless one of the roads is a major highway leading to Israel, and unless the heart is the one beating right here within the State of Israel.

I would like to think that one of the more serious topics on the GA agenda will be aliyah and real Zionism, as distinct from "Lovers of Zion" which the plethora of Zionist organizations should be defined and named henceforth.

As the old man used to say, Zionists are those who come on aliyah or consider the option seriously within a given time capsule... all the rest have no moral right to be referred to as Zionists regardless of the sums they see fit to contribute to Israel.

RAYA GENSLE

Herziya.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On November 18, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that survivors of the Revadim settlement which was captured on May 14, when the Arab Legion overran the Etzion Bloc, pitched their tents somewhere in the Negev on a new site of 5,000 dunams. Fifty-four of the original settlers were still POWs in Jordanian hands, but 25 women

who were released started working at the new location.

25 years ago: On November 18, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that Egypt had rejected Premier Golda Meir's proposal that Egypt and Israel withdraw their forces to the lines they occupied before the outbreak of the war on October 6. Egypt also

asked Israel to stop pouring cement to strengthen its bridges across the Suez Canal.

The US was reported to have discussed with Arab leaders a peace formula for the Middle East as a possible basis for a phased settlement of the conflict with Israel.

Alexander Zvielli

150 من الامم

Russia WOOS Schroeder, Gore

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia's president and prime minister courted their two main Western partners in separate meetings yesterday amid unrelenting economic gloom.

Boris Yeltsin returned to the Kremlin to greet Chancellor Gerhard Schröder of Germany, Russia's biggest creditor, and to tell him their relations remained a top priority for Moscow.

At the same time, Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov presented his economic plans to Vice President Al Gore on the sidelines of an Asian summit in Malaysia.

Yeltsin, dogged by ill health, spends more time resting at country residences than in the Kremlin, which he last visited last Thursday to welcome Japan's Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi.

German reporters present at the start of yesterday's talks with Schröder said Yeltsin, 67, looked waxen and stiff and took time putting his sentences together.

A stern-faced Yeltsin was shown on television telling the German delegation that ties between the two countries "are and will be just the same as they were in recent years."

Yeltsin, who drummed his fingers on the table to emphasize his point, was apparently alluding to his warm personal relationship with Schröder's predecessor, Helmut Kohl.

Primakov stood in for Yeltsin in Malaysia, where Russia officially joined the Asia-Pacific economic forum (APEC) which groups the mostly affluent countries of the region. But his talks with Gore were the highlight of Primakov's visit.

"I explained our economic policy, I said, and Gore agreed, that it is reasonable and really is realistic," he said.

US officials did not comment on Primakov's plans, which have so far drawn a cool response from Washington and global lending bodies which fear Moscow is abandoning market reforms.

Russia is trying to persuade the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to pay out the next \$4.3 billion tranche of a loan package agreed in July to meet looming debt repayments and to pay wage and pension arrears to its own citizens.

An IMF mission is due in Moscow today to take a fresh look at the government's plans, including its budget for 1999.

UN inspectors resume work

86 UNSCOM staff arrive in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - UN weapons monitors returned to Baghdad and got back to work yesterday a week after they left to avoid threatened US-led air strikes on Iraq.

"We are looking forward to a professional and productive relationship with the Iraqi authorities over the next few days... and time will tell," said Caroline Cross, spokeswoman for the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM).

"We've got a lot of work to do, we have important work to do. We must get on with it as directed by the Security Council and that is what we will be doing," she told reporters after 86 UNSCOM staff reached UN headquarters in Baghdad.

Cross said the monitors had already started getting computers and communications working and would be "back out in the field as soon as possible, as instructed by New York."

The UNSCOM group arrived earlier at Habbaniya military airbase, 80 kilometers west of Baghdad, on a white UN C-130 transport plane from Bahrain. Six more staffers were due to join them from Bahrain today, Cross said.

Iraq suspended all cooperation with UNSCOM, charged with dismantling Iraq's prohibited weapons programs, on October 31 as part of its campaign for the lifting of stringent UN sanctions imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Iraqi officials say the sanctions have caused the deaths of more than 1.5 million Iraqis in the past eight years.

"We are happy to be back," said one Australian UNSCOM staffer, but most of his colleagues were tight-lipped.

About 120 UN aid workers returned to Baghdad earlier Tuesday after a tiring 1,000-kilometer journey across the desert from Amman, a UN official said.

They joined 30 UN humanitarian staff who flew from Amman to Habbaniya Monday and 57 who had remained in Baghdad to try to keep Iraq's oil-for-food program running.

The 1996 deal with the United Nations allows Iraq to buy humanitarian supplies for its 22 million people with the proceeds of limited oil sales approved by the Security Council.

UNSCOM pulled its staff out



UNSCOM weapons inspectors arrive at UN headquarters in Baghdad after returning to Iraq yesterday.

abruptly last Wednesday and 150 UN relief workers were also told to leave amid fears that US and British air strikes on Iraq were imminent.

The US called off planned raids Saturday, when its bombers were already in the air, after Iraq announced it was ready to resume cooperation with UNSCOM unconditionally.

Friction between Iraq and UNSCOM has been at the heart of repeated crises over sanctions and weapons inspections.

UNSCOM was set up in the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf War that drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait. After the war the UN Security Council ordered Baghdad to destroy its weapons of mass destruction as one condition for

the lifting of sanctions.

The UNSCOM staff who returned yesterday were mostly from the monitoring and verification side of the complex disarmament operation.

Their job is to maintain surveillance of declared sites suspected of links to Iraq's efforts to build long-range missiles and chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

WORLD

in brief

RFK Jr. won't run for Senate seat

WHITE PLAINS, NY (AP) - Citing the demands of political campaigning on family life, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said he will not run for the seat being vacated by Sen. Daniel Moynihan two years from now. Kennedy told the editorial board of *The Journal News* on Monday that scores of people have asked him to run for the seat his father held when he was assassinated in 1968. "It's a seat that I would love to occupy, but I have five young kids," said Kennedy, 44, a prominent environmental lawyer. State Democratic Chairwoman Judith Hope said she was disappointed but not surprised by Kennedy's decision.

Judge orders Pinochet to appear in court

LONDON (AP) - A lawyer said yesterday that Gen. Augusto Pinochet might leave hospital, prompting a magistrate to order the former Chilean dictator to appear in a London court by December 2. If a High Court ruling awarding Pinochet immunity from arrest is upheld, he could leave Britain and extradition proceedings would fall away.

Pinochet, arrested in London on a Spanish warrant to face charges of genocide has remained hospitalized under police guard. A Chilean government report says about 3,000 people were killed or disappeared during his 17-year rule.

Modigliani sets record price at NY auction

NEW YORK (Reuters) - An Amedeo Modigliani portrait and an Alberto Giacometti sculpture set records for the artists at Sotheby's on Monday. A 1919 portrait of Modigliani's mistress, "Portrait of Jeanne Hébuterne," sold for \$15.127.500. Giacometti's 1950 sculpture, "The Forest, Seven Figures and One Head," fetched \$7,482,500.

Most other works sold within the pre-sale estimated range, with several barely making the low estimate or selling for even less. The stockmarket was blamed, but Franck Girard, rival Christie's head of Impressionist and 19th and 20th century paintings said he had not "felt any slowdown of interest because of the spin down of the stock market."

Jury sides with gunmaker in negligence suit

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) - The family of a boy killed in an accidental shooting lost their case against a gun manufacturer they accused of failing to use safety features that might have prevented the death.

The jury ruled Monday that Beretta USA was not liable for the death of Kenzo Dix, 15. The boy was killed in 1994 while playing with a friend who found his father's Beretta 9 mm semi-automatic handgun. The friend removed the loaded clip from the pistol, but a cartridge remained in the chamber and fired when he pulled the trigger.

In their lawsuit, Kenzo's parents, Lynn and Griffin Dix, said the gun should have been designed to prevent unauthorized users from firing it or alert a user when a live round is in the chamber.

Accused youth says bloodbath plot just a joke

BURLINGTON, Wisconsin (AP) - A plot by five boys to take over their high school and kill schoolmates and teachers was, according to one of the accused, a joke that came from frustration with being teased. The quiet community of Burlington wasn't laughing Monday.

"I thank the Lord that we were able to apprehend these young people and prevent this from happening," said Burlington High School principal Jose Martinez, one of the alleged targets.

Police said the five, all 15 or 16, planned a bloodbath out of anger because they were picked on. But one of the teens said the group never intended to carry out an attack.

Hunt launched for looted Nazi art treasures

LONDON (Reuters) - Holocaust researchers yesterday launched a multi-billion dollar treasure hunt for art treasures looted by the Nazis in World War II.

Lord Greville Janner of the Holocaust Educational Trust said SS leader Heinrich Himmler's family may have been able to keep his looted treasures, while Jews were still battling after 50 years to win back priceless heirlooms.

"The art which he stole may have been returned to his heirs, but the trail went dead on us," Janner told reporters.

"The hunt for Nazi loot has turned into the greatest treasure hunt in history. We don't know where it will end," he added.

Janner, issuing a research document on looted Nazi art that may have ended up in Britain, said he had won the agreement of both state and private museums to make detailed checks on the provenance of paintings.

"We regard them as thoroughly honorable people running wholly honorable institutions and I am sure they would not wish to be in possession of stolen property," he said.

"You cannot DNA a work of art, but the provenance of most of them today can be established," he said.

The trust is also seeking to audit the British armed forces art collection to check if it contains any works of art that may have been "liberated" by Allied troops.

It also wants to look at British intelligence files to find out where the trail ended after the war.

"We believe there are documents which show the heads of the British restitution team told the Soviet Union where to find important Nazi looted art in Berlin which then disappeared in Russia," Janner said.

Earlier this year, Swiss banks agreed a global settlement which will give Holocaust victims and their heirs a total of \$1.25 billion.

Janner said he would pursue every avenue from stocks and shares to unpaid life insurance claims and looted art. Finding the paintings was the first step before other immensely complicated issues, such as the impact on the art market, can be dealt with.

Lewinsky tapes made public

WASHINGTON (AP) - Americans got an earful of Monica Lewinsky's voice yesterday on the Linda Tripp tapes released by the House Judiciary Committee.

By turns she is earnest, girlish and matter-of-fact about her relationship with the man she calls the Creep. Tripp, who secretly recorded her, offers a deeper, throatier counterpoint.

There is the background noise of day-to-day life: a baseball game playing on the TV, an admonition for Tripp's dog to settle down.

Transcripts of the conversations secretly recorded by Tripp were released by Congress earlier this fall.

The 37 tapes contain 22 hours of private musings from Lewinsky about her relationship with the president.

She chats about sending Clinton a tape of her voice. Lewinsky even coaches Tripp on how to make tapes at home - of music, not

phone calls.

The Tripp tapes disclose Lewinsky's plan to tape herself and send the cassette to Clinton.

At one point, Tripp says Clinton should count his blessings that Lewinsky has not gone public with their White House trysts and late-night phone calls.

"He has no clue how... lucky he is," Tripp says. "I mean, how did he know... that you weren't taping his wacky conversation with you at 4 in the morning?" Tripp befriended Lewinsky at the Pentagon, and the tapes led to Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's investigation of Clinton.

A Maryland grand jury is considering whether Tripp broke state wiretapping law by taping

Lewinsky without her knowledge.

The tapes reflect Lewinsky's efforts to have Tripp give testimony that would be helpful to Clinton and Lewinsky in the Paula Jones sexual harassment lawsuit against the president.

In the first tape recording that Tripp made, she and Lewinsky discussed what constituted sex. Lewinsky was adamant that oral sex did not qualify.

Tripp referred to "the big creep" and Lewinsky responded, "I never even came close to sleeping with him... We didn't have sex... We fooled around... Having sex is having intercourse."

The president's position is that oral sex was not covered by the definition used in the deposition.

Court bars Le Pen from office for a year

VERSAILLES (Reuters) - An appeals court yesterday imposed a one-year ban on holding or seeking office on French far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen, dealing a serious blow to his political future.

The ban, which the appeals court cut to one year from the two imposed by a lower court, means Le Pen will be unable to stand in next June's European parliamentary elections.

Le Pen, whose National Front party typically wins 15 percent of the vote in national elections, had been convicted by a lower court in April of assaulting a Socialist woman candidate who was challenging his daughter for a seat in the French parliament last year.

Le Pen, who was not in the courtroom when the judgement was announced, has angered some National Front officials by announcing that his wife Jany Le Pen would head the National Front's slate in the European parliamentary poll if he were unable to do so.

Hussein to have bone marrow transplant

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - King Hussein, who says he no longer has any trace of lymphatic cancer, will undergo a bone marrow transplant at the end of the month in his final cycle of treatment at the Mayo Clinic.

In a procedure much like a blood transfusion, blood stem cells taken earlier from Jordan's king will be reintroduced into his body, Hussein's doctors said Monday.

The procedure, called an autologous transplant, is done while the patient is awake.

The transplant is an attempt to prevent recurrence of Hussein's non-Hodgkins lymphoma. It is part of the sixth and final cycle of chemotherapy since he arrived at the Rochester clinic July 14, said Mayo spokeswoman Jane Jacobs.

Hussein, 63, told state-run Jordan Television last week that there is no longer any trace of cancer in his lymph nodes.

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Look who's talking!



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Hasafa Hamusla'a Shel H'teva (The Wonderful Language of Nature), a CD-ROM in Hebrew by the Center for Educational Technology in Ramat Aviv, requires a Pentium and Windows 95 or above, for ages 11 and up, available from The Jerusalem Post Book Department and other outlets. NIS 299.

Rating: ★★★★★

Living things, animals as well as plants, are constantly communicating, but we, who lack King Solomon's fluency in their languages, usually fail to pay attention.

This fascinating, sophisticated piece of software focuses on a particular sub-section of biology — the aspect of communications within and among species, between parents and offspring, predators and their prey, the individual and the group.

Divided into 58 entries, containing information on nearly 100 types of animals and plants, the disk provides scores of beautiful video clips whose action can be frozen, plus hundreds of photographs that can be zoomed in, enlarged to cover the whole screen or shifted from side to side.

As lovely classical music sounds in the background, the user is presented with an introduction to communication in nature, followed by seven major topics: on the food trail, parents & offspring, courting & attraction, self-protection, rule over the landscape, social standing and belonging to a group. Click on each one and see circular photographs representing a sub-topic, each of whose introductory paragraphs is narrated by one of three professional voices.

Each topic has, at least, one video film and many photographs; amazingly, the clever, brightly written text and the graphics and pictures are coordinated so that when you shift up or down, the corresponding material pops up automatically.

Icons link to a word-processing program for saving sections of text and photographs to write papers. There are also extensive bibliographies and instant links to Internet sites that deal with the subjects mentioned, plus in-depth assignments to perform and a clipboard that lets you return immediately to text or photographs that you bookmarked.

A TYPE of orchid native to New Zealand looks exactly like the private parts of a female bee. It needs to be pollinated to pass on its genes to the next generation, but its pollen is neither edible nor does it have nectar.

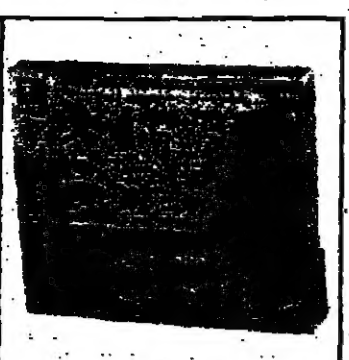
So the flower deceptively emits the smell of the pheromone (hormone) produced by a female bee. Any male that buzzes by loses control of himself. He tries to mate with the flower, and while thrusting, he's powdered with pollen, serving as an unwitting, uncompensated mailman.

As everyone knows, the male peacock is a big show-off; he spreads his beautiful plumage in front of the discerning, dull-colored female. But were you aware of the fact that when he shakes his feathers, they rub against each other, producing a sound that drives the females wild? Combined with his shrill cries and the colorful display, the female has a hard time choosing which male is healthiest, largest and most capable of raising their joint offspring.

The kingfisher bird goes one step further: He catches fish that he serves to his mate to mate to show he will be a good provider. Another bird, a predator, tries to impress females by hanging dead insects, caterpillars, mice and even small birds on a wire fence to whet their appetite.

Female bees direct their coworkers to the location of food by doing a circular jig upon their return; bees foreign to a hive are easily detected by having a scent different from the one "chosen" by the community for that period of time; frogs show their manhood by croaking not only more loudly than their competitors but also at greater frequency; deer issue hormones from their foreheads and below their eyes to mark off their territory on bushes and stones; certain birds that see a threatening snake surround the intruder and mock it, informing the would-be attacker that "We see you!"

How do animal mothers identify their children, even when there are hundreds of offspring in the same small area?



Immediately after their birth or hatching, the mother licks the newborn, and its unique smell and voice are imprinted on her brain; if they are separated at this critical moment, the mother is likely to refuse to care for the baby so as not to waste effort on "someone else's genes."

How does a seagull know its fledglings are hungry? The adults have a red spot on their lower bill. The baby intuitively pecks on the spot when it's hungry, and the parent regurgitates its own food to feed the offspring.

Other baby birds have a yellow or orange-colored throat. The wider they open their beaks and the louder their chirps, the hungrier they appear to their parents. The alligator is even more sensitive: Before its eggs hatch, the babies' voices can be heard through the shell. The mother helps the baby get out and then leads it to the water to swim and eat.

Children and adults can spend many enjoyable hours with this program, and even then will always be able to discover another amazing secret of nature they never knew.

Ha'encyclopedia Leva'alei Hayim: Hayonim Beyisrael (The Encyclopedia of Living Things: Mammals in Israel), a CD-ROM in Hebrew, produced by CD Media and Teva Hadvarim Publishing, distributed by Makhshevet, requires a Pentium computer for the whole family. NIS 149.

Rating: ★★★★★

THIS piece of software, approved by the Education Ministry, also deals with nature, but in a much more straightforward, conventional manner than the disk described above.

The text for the database, written by zoologist Dr. Avi Arbel, focuses on mammals that live, or once lived, in Eretz Yisrael. It includes short "biographies" of some 124 species, plus 300 color photographs or drawings, 120 maps showing the location of their habitats and 58 short video clips. It's the first in a series on Israeli fauna; the next will be a database on fish in Israel.

The short introduction features a "family tree" of mammals to show how they're related. Each of the species is presented using a "visiting card" listing details about the animal, the family, genus and species; general information, behavior, appearance, size, diet, senses, reproduction, status (common or in danger of extinction), active during the day or night and other variables. There is much less information than would appear in a serious printed encyclopedia.

The Hebrew, English and Latin names are given for each species. A Hebrew literal translation of the Latin name is also provided: The name of the bat known to zoologists as *Eptesicus serotinus* means "flies around at home and goes out the back way."

The sound component is limited to background noises during the video clips (most of them, unfortunately, taken in zoos through bars rather than in the wild); there is no voice-over narration except for Hebrew names of species that are pronounced when clicked. Text and pictures can be printed out.

The efficient search engine allows you to find species according to these criteria, which can easily be accessed by box. For example, if you're looking for a rodent weighing up to one kilo that lives in the desert, is not in danger of extinction, eats a vegetarian diet and is active at night, the program identifies about a dozen creatures that fit the bill.

Another shortcoming of the program is that you can't ask to see a list of all items with video clips. Every species has a video symbol under its name, but you know there's a movie only if you place your mouse cursor below the symbol and the words "Open Video" suddenly appear.

An internal lexicon provides definitions for more difficult terms that appear in red within the text. There are internal links to the Internet sites of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel and of Teva Hadvarim.

This is a reasonably good program for an overall view of mammals that live here, but if you're searching for a lot of data on a single species, you'll have to look elsewhere.

The magic of 'touch therapy'

Massage is slowly being recognized as a wonderful way to enhance the health of special-needs babies — and its effect on all infants can last for years, writes Avram Goldstein



Touch power: Emily Lewanda gets a foot massage from her mother while a therapist demonstrates the technique on a doll. (Washington Post)

For most of her troubled eight months of life, Emily Lewanda has tried to avoid being touched.

Her heart condition and her problems with eating have required a lot of medical procedures and daily use of a feeding tube in her nose. It all hurts, and recently she's become especially fussy about anyone coming near her face.

But recently, Emily lay on a floor mat in a Rockville, Md., classroom, cooing, gurgling and smiling as her mother firmly but gently stroked Emily's face and head. Under the supervision of an infant-massage teacher, her mother's hands transformed Emily into a joyful, patient infant who was so at ease that her tongue was literally hanging out.

Twenty-five years ago, the idea of infant massage was brought to the US by a Peace Corps worker who had learned about it in an orphanage in India. Now the practice is gaining converts across the nation, reinforced by a small but growing number of mainstream researchers who say massage is a powerful tool, with lifelong implications for a child's emotional development.

In advertisements on Washington-area bulletin boards and community newspapers and through civic groups and support organizations, instructors are offering to teach parents to use canola oil or other vegetable oils to stroke their infants with the appropriate motion and degree of pressure.

Massage stimulates the central nervous system, releasing biochemicals that promote calm and enhance appetite and, most importantly, strengthen the emotional bonds between parent and child, researchers say.

They also say that massage and other types of touching by parents can help premature and low-birth-weight infants gain weight and get healthy fast enough to cut their hospital stays by six days. If that saving were achieved for the nearly 500,000 premature infants born every year in the US, such therapy could cut the country's medical bills by nearly \$5 billion a year, the researchers say.

But only 10 percent of those small intensive-care patients now receive so-called touch therapy, and millions of other full-term infants have never experienced infant massage. Parents who have tried it say they were completely won over.

"Life is pretty hectic with a new baby in the house," said Lisa Mizelfeld, 37, of Arlington, Va., who has used infant massage on her 14-month-old daughter, Paris, since birth.

She credits massage with helping her daughter become unusually affectionate.

"I found giving baby a massage really slowed everything down and helped us all relax," Mizelfeld said. "It's a loving act that doesn't need any props."

BECAUSE of growing interest in infant massage and other therapies,

researchers are spending increasing time and money on questions of how what happens to the body affects the mind.

"We are only now beginning to appreciate the interdependence between physiological processes and social and emotional processes," said Peter A. Gorski, a Harvard pediatric professor and director of a foundation financed by the insurance industry to improve children's health.

"I have a deep-seated professional conviction that the physiological vehicle for the positive effect from massage is the emotional contact and connection that it creates in the relationship between the caregiver and the infant."

The University of Maryland at Baltimore was the nation's first medical school to start an alternative medicine department, and a program there is working with the National Institutes of Health to explore the possibilities of massage therapy for infants.

More needs to be done to determine the potential of infant massage, said the program's director, Brian Berman.

Whatever the research says, mothers of some special-needs children already view massage as a way to enhance their babies' physical health.

Emily's mother, Amy Feldman Lewanda, a pediatric geneticist, is taking massage classes to cope with the challenges of her daughter's heart problems, which prevent her from eating enough on her own. The goal is to cut her stress levels, which could help her eat

more and eventually live without the feeding tube.

At a training session with teacher Debra Bataglia, Emily showed in dramatic fashion that massage could help. Emily allowed her delighted mother to stroke her head, face and body.

"She's melting," Lewanda said with quiet joy, after 35 minutes without a complaint from the baby, who luxuriated in her mother's touch and repeatedly elicited sighs from all the adults in the room who watched her joy.

"This is the longest I've gone with her... She's so happy — she seems to want to talk."

Lewanda, 36, appreciates the results of massage as both a mother and a doctor.

"It's very comforting and reassuring that I can do that for her," she said. "That has nothing to do with clinical medicine; it's just a mom feeling good that she can make her daughter feel better."

"But I'm hoping that if I do it better, I can make a clinical improvement in her and maybe she'll eat more and do more in her therapy sessions."

THE researcher whose studies have brought the most scientific recognition to infant massage is Tiffany Field, a psychologist at the University of Miami medical school whose team has published 68 articles in pediatric journals on the power of touch.

"The dose of touch is as critical as getting kids the right exercise and diet," Field said.

"Parents feel like they have a bet-

ter feeling for what their kids are needing and respond to, a better sense of their relationship with their child from the physical intimacy of touching. We know it's great for growth and weight gain (for premature babies), but full-term babies are also less fussy and sleep better."

Infant-massage instructors see Field as a guru. They distribute her studies, share articles about her, talk about the possibilities.

One of her admirers is Fay Drummond, a congressional staff member on the Senate Finance Committee who specializes in mother-child health issues.

After work, Drummond teaches infant massage through her non-profit group. She tries to show inner-city teenage mothers how to forge stronger bonds with their babies in hopes of reducing the incidence of child abuse.

Some District of Columbia doctors say that many impoverished teenage mothers have little idea of the importance of touching their children and are sometimes too willing to put children down alone instead of cuddling them.

"It's a powerful, powerful tool," Drummond said, suggesting that government and private firms that pay for medical care could save huge sums of money if they did more to encourage infant massage.

"This is a cost-containment issue. It's a quality-of-life issue. It's supportive of families. It's something fathers can do."

THE godmother of the infant-massage movement is Vimala

McClure, of Boulder, Colo., who first learned about infant massage in India in 1973. Since then, the training programs have grown into a movement with affiliates and instructors around the world.

McClure is disabled by a chronic disease, but she still speaks with missionary fervor about massage and continues to publish books on child care.

"I keep hearing people say we need to get back to hugging our kids — it drives me nuts!" she said. "Every single person in the penitentiary has been beaten, and that is not the approach we need..."

"This in-between generation of parents is a hard place to be. We have to make up for what we didn't get and at the same time give to our children more than what we got. Massage is a great place to start."

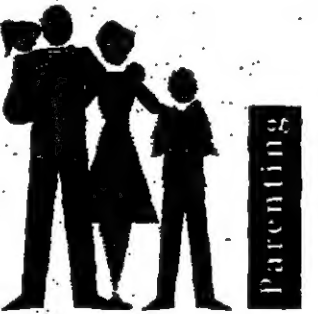
So far, while much more scientific research of touch is being pursued, no Washington area HMOs or other health plans pay for their members to be educated about infant massage, teachers say. Training typically costs \$30 to \$50 per family at each session, depending on class size.

Field said the advantages of infant massage can last for years.

"When parents learn to massage their newborns, they continue doing it," she said. "They say, 'Thanks, my 11-year-old still insists on getting a back rub before he goes to sleep at night.'"

"When they get to be that age, we tell them to teach the kids to give the parents a back rub." (The Washington Post)

Acting up in school



By Ruth Mason

Our first-grader is already acting up in school. He climbs around, climbs on the tables, disturbs the class, and doesn't always listen to the teacher. He's among the oldest in his class, so we don't think it's a question of readiness. How can we help him behave better in school?

Tom Gumpel, PhD, applied behavior analyst, Department of Special Education, Hebrew University, says:

Keep in mind that the transition into first grade can be hard for little boys. Given that, and despite what you say, the problem might indeed have to do with school readiness.

We have just finished five years of research on readiness for first grade and found that readiness does not necessarily revolve around a cut-off age. It has more to do with behavior than with academic skills.

We found that what first-grade teachers are really interested in is behavior: the ability to work independently, the ability to solve problems, the child's ability to understand his role as a pupil.

A child needs to be able to sit in circle time, follow directions and suppress his occasional urge to climb around like a monkey in the classroom.

This is not to say that a child having problems understanding what his role is shouldn't be in first grade. Holding children back is not justified by research.

Problematic behavior in school usually falls into one of two categories: Either a child is looking for positive reinforcement such as attention, praise or the admiration of peers; or he is using the behavior to escape from doing something he doesn't like.

If a child has a hard time with math, he might sing during math to get the teacher to deal with him instead of his having to do math.

SOME children need peripheral support in first grade. If your child is having trouble academically as well, and his school is in an area in which special education services are given through Merkaz Tipuli Yisraeli Bzori or Matya — a regional therapeutic center that gives special education services to children in regular classrooms — you might want to ask the school counselor about this option.

Through Matya, itinerant special education teachers provide extra help in reading and math in your child's school. They also help teachers deal with problematic children.

I would suggest you first meet with the teacher, the school counselor and/or the school psychologist to see if the situation is extreme enough to warrant a call to Matya.

If it's not, you and the teacher need to work together to see when the problematic behaviors are occurring and when they are not.

The secret of dealing with any behavior problem is not to focus solely on the behavior but on how the environment helps to reinforce and maintain that behavior. Let's say a child keeps walking

behind his teacher and asking questions and she says, "I'm not going to answer you unless you sit down and ask me in the right way." He keeps it up and after five minutes, she can't take it anymore and she whistles around and says, "OK, what do you want?"

By doing this, she has reinforced the very behavior she wants to eliminate. The child learns that he only needs to keep up the unwanted behavior long enough and he'll get what he wants.

I'm a firm believer that, most of the time, you can modify a child's behavior by modifying the teacher's response. Yelling or making a big fuss in any way reinforces unwanted behavior. If a child climbs on a table to be a clown and a teacher blows her top, he's won. There's no better way for him to get the spotlight on himself.

I would recommend that, for a few days, the teacher record the misbehavior, what time it happened, what class it happened in, who was around, what happened immediately before and immediately after.

This will allow her to look for patterns. In about 99 percent of cases these behaviors are rule-governed rather than random.

Once we know the rule, we can fix it. For example, if the child is acting up when there is some down time in the class, then instead of punishing or scolding him the teacher can think about ways to make the transition from activity to activity smoother.

No behavior ever occurs unless it is being reinforced. If a child is jumping on the table, you can be sure there is reinforcement going on somewhere.

You need to dig until you find it — and then you need to neutralize it.

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Corner



By Batseva Mink

Autumn's arrived: It's time to pick your perennials

In gardens up and down the country, beds and borders are just beginning to look a little tired and faded. Summer flowers have faded, foliage has lost its crisp, lush greenness, mildew is appearing and even the soil's looking weary.

But the ground is still warm and the rains are not far off. This is the time to plant perennials for next spring and summer.

There are many reasons why gardeners plant perennials – their endless variety of leaf shape and color, their outline and texture, and their reassuring air of permanence, to name just a few.

But mainly, perennials are planted for their flowers, and that is where the problems begin. The majority of perennials bloom for only two or three weeks, creating noticeable gaps in a carefully planned border. So, when planning a border of perennials, it is a good idea to find a few plants that flower over a longer period and a few that flower during the latter part of the year.

There are various types of perennials. There are the annuals, with a one-year life cycle; the biennials which produce roots, stems and leaves in the first year, flower in the second, then set seed and die; and the perennials, which last at least three years. Conditions may alter a perennial into a shorter-lived biennial or even an annual, but 1,000 days of endurance earn a plant the perennial stamp.

An interesting example is the *Antirrhinum*, which is often treated as an annual even though it is perennial in its wild state. Most of these plants do not make it after the first year or two, often succumbing to diseases, and therefore they are treated as annuals.

Given all this, which perennial should one plant? The answer is those that satisfy at least four of the following requirements:

1. able to withstand a cold Israeli winter;
2. able to resist pests and dis-

eases;

3. bloom for a long period of time, or bloom twice in one season;

4. make a good cut flower;
5. establish themselves quickly after planting, and grow without too much care and attention;
6. have interesting leaves.

Having selected your perennials, there are other factors to consider when planting – growth rate, height and shape of the plant.

Vigorous plants should be kept apart from the slow spreaders, and the taller kinds should not be planted near ones with a slower or lowly habit.

Upright plants that attract special attention are the hollyhock, foxglove and day lily that may be grouped at intervals throughout the border – drawing the eye upwards and giving the flowers a sense of strength and power.

The elegant leaves of *Acanthus spinosus* and the giant silver-gray leaves of *Verbascum* can quite easily stand alone. Sometimes these distinctive perennials show up to best advantage in well-spaced groups of three.

Taller plants belong in the middle or back of the border, where they will have plenty of elbow room, while the pinks and sedums can be planted at the front of the border where their neat growth covers, but does not mask, what lies behind.

If space is limited, many plants that have finished flowering can be cut down, allowing their neighbors to spill over into their former airspace.

Here are few long-lasting perennials to consider.

• *Liatris* (*Liatris spicata*, Heb. *liatri*)

Grassy clumps give rise to a leafy flower spike with purple or lilac flowers opening from top to bottom. The plants prefer deep, fertile garden soil. An ideal cut flower that grows up to 1 meter and flowers from July to September.

• *Penstemon* (*Penstemon x gloxinoides*, Heb. *penstemon*) This long-lasting flowering perennial deserves a place in every garden. The foxglove-like flowers come in nearly every color, some two-toned. They grow in clumps from 40-80 cm high. Flowering time is from the end of April until the middle of December. To get them to flower a full nine months they must be cut down in July and dead-headed regularly. Within three to four weeks they will be flowering again. Feed with a slow-release fertilizer twice a year and cultivate with a good rich compost in late February. Prefers full sun. Good for cutting.

• *Coneflower* (*Rudbeckia fulgida*, Heb. *rudbeckia*) Deep orange-yellow or yellow daisy-like flowers growing about 60 cm. tall. Flowers from July until November and needs full sun. Good for cutting.

• *African Lily* or *Lily of the Nile* (*Agapanthus praecox*, Heb. *agapanthus*)

A native of South Africa with long, dark green leaves and lily-like blue or white flowers that grow in dense clusters. Grows to 1.5 meters and makes excellent cut flowers. Blooms from June to August and can be propagated by division. Grows in full sun.

• *Obedience plant* (*Physostegia virginiana*, Heb. *fisostegia*)

This one I like to call a go-between as it flowers just after the summer plants have started to fade and before the start of the chrysanthemums. The common name "obedience" is drawn from the oddity of the individual florets: when bent to another position, they retain that orientation. Tolerates full sun if watered well or planted in light to semishade. Grows up to 60 cm. with white or lavender tubular flowers on long spikes which are ideal for cutting.

• *Red yarrow* (*Achillea millefolium*, Heb. *achillea*)

An attractive garden perennial with flowers ranging from white

to bright carmine red. The small flowers grow in clusters and are borne in umbrella-like (umbrella) fashion on stalks 40-150 cm. high. The plants prefer full sun and a dry site. Most bloom from June to early September and produce good cut flowers for fresh and dried bouquets.

OTHER popular flowering perennials include many iris varieties, golden rod (*Solidago*), Michaelmas daisy or aster (*A. novi blegii*; Heb. *aster belgia*), Geum (Heb. *geum*) and Shasta daisy (*Chrysanthemum maximum*, Heb. *hartz gedola*)

Batseva Mink is a curator of the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens, Givat Ram.

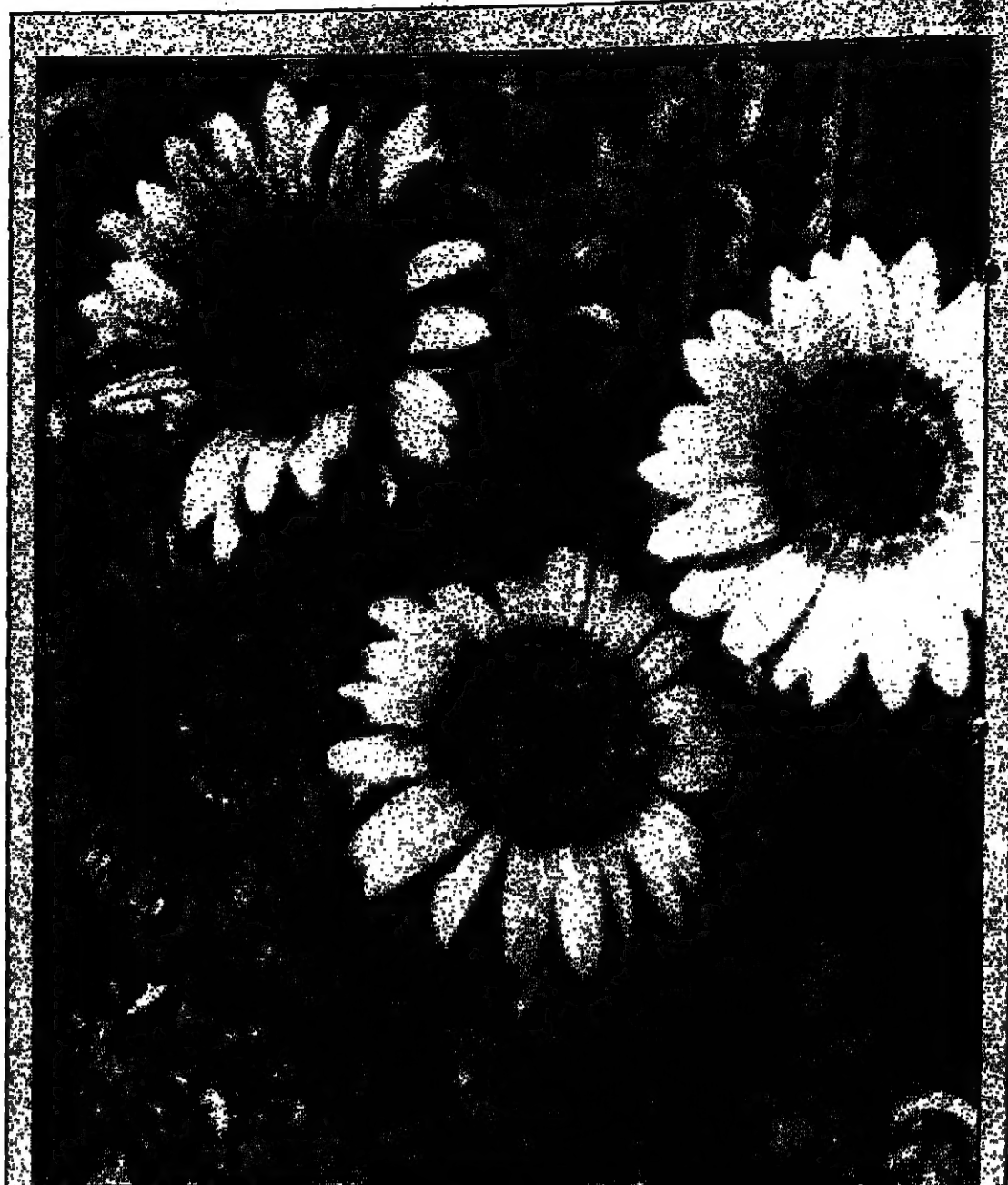
Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batseva Mink, POB 3943, Jerusalem 91039.



TIP OF THE WEEK

The value of an flower is not in their longevity but in their color. If flowers are cut when they are two days old, they will not open and if cut when they are ten days old, they will not last long.

Cutting flowers will not harm a plant if it is done properly. In fact, plants often bloom more profusely after flowering. However, naturally die and fall off, cutting only hastens the process. Because the plant does not need to produce seeds once the flower is cut, that energy can go into producing additional flowers. This is particularly true of perennials.



Perennials are loved for their variety of leaf shape and color and their permanent presence – but they are planted mainly for their flowers.

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Heads 'N' Tails



By Dvora Ben Shaul

A reader from Tel Aviv writes to ask about traveling abroad with a dog and a cat.

"We are going to the US for two years and we want to take our dog, a spayed collie female, and our neutered tomcat with us. Have you any advice for us? We are worried about them."

Actually, traveling with your pets is not as difficult as one might think. Fortunately, airlines have finally gotten used to the idea.

The first thing you need to know is that your pets must have a veterinary certificate of health. This is not arranged with your private veterinarian but the Veterinary Service of the Ministry of Agriculture. There is a veterinarian in every large town and in every region.

The animal must have a valid rabies inoculation certificate that is not less than two months old and not more than six months. This will mean revaccination if the certificate is more than six months old.

Traveling cases can be arranged through your airline and it is a good idea to get them a couple of weeks early and let the animal get familiar with them. Make sure you get the proper size. The animal-welfare laws that are operative on air carriers demand that the animal be able to stand up and stretch out full length on the floor of the carrying crate.

Most dogs and cats manage to go through the experience easily. Highly nervous animals may benefit from a long-acting tranquilizer for the flight. You should consult your veterinarian about this. In my experience, and I have shipped a lot of dogs and cats, this is rarely necessary. In most cases the anxious pet owner needs the tranquilizer more than the pet.

Try, if possible, to take a direct flight. If you have a stopover it complicates things, although the airport service crew are usually quite helpful. Try to make your stopover in London, where the RSPCA has a representative at the airport who will see to it that your pets are properly cared for. If it's a direct flight, relax: your pets are probably as comfortable as you are.

Many people going abroad prefer to put their animals in a kennel and have the kennel owners ship the animals once the owners have settled in and have a place for them. Most good kennels provide this service, and it is sometimes much easier to deal with pets when you have already found suitable quarters for the family.

All of that also applies to taking an animal to Europe – but if you are going to Britain, you will have to leave the pet in quarantine for six months. Of course you will be allowed to visit it daily if you wish, but it must stay there the full six months. Australia and New Zealand also

have stringent quarantine laws and you should get up-to-date information from the relevant embassy.

Just keep in mind that thousands of animals, from mice to mastiffs and even zoo animals, travel around the world every year and almost invariably arrive safe and sound.

Have pet, will fly



MEIR RONEN © 98

סדרה מן הארץ



'Snake Eyes,' starring Gary Sinise (left) and Nicolas Cage, director Brian De Palma uses a political murder to address the nature of reality.

Movies: Don't trust the government

By ERIC HARRISON

Snake Eyes, like most of Brian De Palma's work, does not seem deeply concerned with politics. But as in a number of other current or recent movies, a profound distrust of authority lies at its core. Not only can government officials not be trusted to do the right thing in these movies, more often than not they are the ones lurking in the shadows, waiting to plunge the dagger.

Governmental distrust in movies isn't confined to political films like *Wag the Dog* and *Bulworth* or *JFK*, Oliver Stone's 1991 fictional take on the assassination. Cynicism and fear of the people in power have become a staple of action films and thrillers.

De Palma and others trace it back to that day in Dallas. "The Kennedy assassination was the first time that we didn't believe our leaders," De

Palma told an interviewer in 1994. "That started (the distrust), and Vietnam finished it off."

Snake Eyes does not deal directly with the Kennedy murder; rather, in this action thriller, the assassination has passed into metaphor. As in *Blow Out*, De Palma here uses a political murder to address a favorite theme — the nature of reality and the search for truth in a world in which right and wrong, fact and fiction, increasingly are seen as relative.

Among other films that take a similar jaded view is *The X-Files*, the movie based on the television series about the search for extraterrestrials, which almost drips with paranoia and distrust.

Then there is the upcoming *Enemy of the State*, due to be released in the US this month. Directed by Tony Scott and produced by Jerry Bruckheimer, the action film stars Will Smith as a

lawyer framed for a high-level government murder and put under surveillance by a corrupt intelligence official.

The argument also could be made that *The Truman Show* traffics in similar fears of an out-of-control authority imposing its will without regard for individual lives or rights. Although the film features no assassins and the government is not the culprit, Jim Carrey portrays a man who learns that his life has been prescribed by a god-like figure and watched as entertainment by millions.

"People have become much more cynical," said director John Frankenheimer, whose work has often dealt with the misuse of power. "With the political examples that are continually before us, you can't help but be cynical. I'm not sure this is a good thing, but nevertheless it is a much less innocent time than it was in the '50s and

'60s. ... I date the loss of innocence to the death of JFK."

Frankenheimer's next film falls within the cinema of cynicism rubric. *Ronin*, set to be released in October, involves former CIA agents brought together to recover a mysterious briefcase. The men strive for it amid double-crosses and growing paranoia, yet have no idea what the case contains or which government wants it.

"There is political paranoia (in the country) and a high degree of political cynicism," said Curtis Gans, executive director of the Committee for the Study of the American Electorate, a nonprofit Washington-based group that studies levels of voter participation. He blames the trend, which he calls "disturbing," for the steady decline in voting levels.

"Paranoia is dangerous," he said. "Paranoia leads you to Oklahoma City," referring to the

1995 bombing.

Like the filmmakers, Gans, who covered the Kennedy assassination for United Press International, traces the political paranoia to what he calls widespread disbelief in the Warren Commission's finding that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone.

"That was the first period that people began to think that you can't accept things really at face value," Gans said. "In addition to that, there was the war in Vietnam and Johnson's (being) disingenuous with the American people. And I think Nixon helped to promote (the distrust.) It was the peculiar juxtaposition of Johnson and Nixon that has led us to doubt the words of our leaders ever since."

(Los Angeles Times)

Adina Hoffman's review of *Snake Eyes* will appear in *Time* Oct.

Alanis Morissette sets new record

By GEOFF BOUCHER

Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie, the new album from Alanis Morissette, entered the US pop charts at No. 1 last week and sets a new standard for first-week album sales by a female artist — despite falling short of many industry forecasts.

Morissette's album sold approximately 469,000 copies its first week, which topped first-week sales of 423,000 set by Lauryn Hill's *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill* early in September, according to SoundScan.

The phenomenal success of Morissette's breakthrough album, 1995's *Jagged Little Pill*, prompted industry insiders to predict the album would sell 350,000 copies or more during its first week.

Still, retailers interviewed last Wednesday said they are excited by the album's potential.

"We're very enthused, and when you listen to this album you can hear four or five new singles, so we expect this to be one of the major records for the season and beyond," said Gary Arnold, senior vice president of merchandising for Best Buy.

"This is a record we'll be selling next Christmas."

Morissette's album, on the Maverick label, was joined the previous week by several other high-profile new releases as the music industry gears up for the busy holiday season.

U2: The Best of 1980-1990, the Irish band's first greatest-hits collection, debuted as the second-best seller with 237,000 units sold. The Island album is being sold at a discounted price with a second disc that assembles many of the band's B-sides.

These Are Special Days, Celine Dion's new Christmas album — featuring holiday classics in four languages — sold 126,000, putting it fourth on the new sales list behind Jay-Z's Vol. 2...*Hard Knock Life*, the only earlier released album in the Top 5. At No. 5 was *Belly*, the soundtrack to the new action film starring rappers Nas and DMX.

(Los Angeles Times)

David Brinn's review of Alanis Morissette's *Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie* will appear next Tuesday.



'Lord of the Dance' comes to Israel

'Lord of the Dance,' the hottest dance show on earth, arrives for the first time in Israel for four performances only at the beginning of January at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv. 'Lord of the Dance' is the creation of Michael Flatley, an American dancer-choreographer of Irish descent who made his fame as a dancer with the Chieftains and whose first dance show, 'River Dance' was an instant worldwide hit. 'Lord of the Dance,' a magical dance and music show with 40 dancers, singers and musicians, premiered in 1995 and has been seen by more than two and a half million enthusiastic spectators all over the world. 'Lord of the Dance' is an Irish-American-Latin dance extravaganza presented in spectacular modern costumes and sensational sets.

Michael Aizenstadt

Choral repertoire's greatest hits

CLASSIC DISCS

By MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

On the face of it *Dies Irae* II (Hebrew: Kolot min Hashamayim II) is a wonderful compilation of 30 great choral pieces from the extensive and very impressive Deutsche Grammophon catalog.

This new compilation (459777-2, two discs for the price of one) is produced by Helicon, the classical-disc importers, who recently also began manufacturing discs.

Following the original *Dies Irae*, which is still selling well, and Helicon's other two-for-one compilations of opera tunes and ballet music, this will no doubt also appeal to music lovers. Local audiences love choral

music and love compilation discs, so the combination will no doubt prove a big winner.

This new release includes some of the greatest musical numbers in the choral repertoire including the *Dies Irae* from Mozart's Requiem with the Vienna Philharmonic conducted by Herbert von Karajan, as well as excerpts from the requiems of Faure, Brahms, Berlioz and Verdi and other choral masterpieces by Bach, Allegri (the popular *Miserere*), Haydn, Handel, Rossini, Bruckner and others.

The performers are among the best, including James Levine and the Berlin Philharmonic, Daniel Barenboim and the London Philharmonic, Trevor Pinnock and the English Consort, Carlo Maria Giulini and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, and

John Eliot Gardiner and the English Baroque Soloists, not to mention the leading German, English and Austrian choirs.

The recordings span a wide period of time, from 1964 to our own day, and reflect varying styles of choral singing and conducting, from the heavy and bombastic to the more airy and effervescent.

This double disc will reveal the magic of choral music to anyone not very familiar with this repertoire.

However I do have some qualms about the set.

Firstly some of these choral excerpts sound rather detached when performed in this way. Granted, not everyone is familiar with the overall context from which these excerpts come, but if you are, the way they end is often quite bewildering, to say the least.

Suzanne Dellal celebrates 10th anniversary

By MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

The Suzanne Dellal Center at Neveh Tzedek in Tel Aviv, Israel's first and only dance center and one of the most invigorating art centers in the country, is celebrating its 10th anniversary in style.

From January 7 to 30 the center will host six visiting dance companies in Dance Europa 99, an exhilarating and engaging dance festival with the best young modern-dance companies from Europe.

Participating in the celebrations are Random: Company from England in *The Millennium*, the Compagnia Michele Pogliani from Italy in *Cyber Queen Lounge*, Bernardo Montet's company from France in *Malov* creation 98 with music by Israeli Eran Zur, Yolande Snaith

Tehatrance from England in *Blind Faith*, the Incapacitacion Danza from Spain in *FGL*, which is based on Lorca, and a solo show by German Urs Dietrich.

Each company will perform three times at the center where dance aficionados will also be able to enjoy an exhibition of dance photographs. The Tel Aviv Cinematheque will also be part of Dance Europa 99 and will screen a large variety of European dance films.

Meanwhile, the Rikudei Heder ("Room Dances") festival this year (November 24-28 in Jerusalem and December 3-6 in Tel Aviv) under the artistic directorship of Amos Hertz, will be centered around the music of John Cage and the connection between Cage's music and the world of dance.

Ray Charles goes C&W

By JIM PATTERSON

Was Ray Charles out to change the world when he first breached the white bastion of country music 36 years ago? Was he making a political statement? Was he trying to help end discrimination? "Oh no!" Charles, now 68, shouts during a telephone interview.

"My God! What? Oh no! I don't think like that. My mind never goes there. I think only music, my friend. And I'm not being ridiculous, I'm being honest with you."

Still, intentionally or not, Charles showed the world something that was far from obvious in 1962: that music is colorblind. And measured against that triumph, his own blindness seems almost an afterthought.

Now American music lovers have a chance to reflect on Charles's achievement through *The Complete Country and Western Recordings 1959-1986*, a four-CD boxed set from Rhino Records that documents how the celebrated singer put his inimitable stamp on 92 country songs.

It begins with "Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music," a landmark recording that helped country music gain a national audience.

When Charles recorded an album of country music songs in 1962, he introduced vast numbers of blacks to country-western, and many whites to rhythm 'n' blues. Almost everybody loved his "Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music." At the time, the 31-year-old Charles had been known primarily as a rhythm 'n' blues star with a largely black following. He had risen to stardom after a string of hits, including "I've Got a Woman," with the release of his first album, *Ray Charles*, in 1957.

A year later, he appeared at the Newport Jazz Festival and released what became his signature song, the very popular "What'd I Say." But it was "Georgia on My Mind," the soulful Hoagy Carmichael tune that Charles recorded in 1960, that lured many whites and blacks to his music. The tune won Charles two Grammy awards, for best vocal performance by a male and best performance by a pop artist.

Clearly, he had journeyed beyond rhythm 'n' blues and tapped into the mainstream. Country music, though, was not a genre readily embraced by urban whites or many blacks.

Charles broke new ground with his country interpretations. The sound appealed to whites who didn't think they liked rhythm 'n' blues, and blacks who didn't think they could enjoy country. With country music, he became a huge star with an enormous following among all people.

His brilliant arrangements started with his always soulful voice and piano, and were helped along by a healthy dose of jazzy horns. And then the most surprising touch: string sections and lush background vocals that would be at home on *The Lawrence Welk Show*. Charles's pleading version of Don Gibson's "I Can't Stop



Ray Charles

Loving You" was the No. 1 pop record in the United States for five weeks of the summer of 1962. It remains his biggest hit to date.

"What we have to remember is that country in the early 1960s was still very much a regional music and not in everybody's home," said Paul Kingsbury of the Country Music Foundation.

"Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music" played an enormous role in popularizing country music," Willie Nelson goes further.

"With his recording of 'I Can't Stop Loving You,' Ray Charles did more for country music than any other artist," he says in a quote included in the box set.

"Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music" was an immediate hit. A sequel followed later the same year.

"It's an idea as corny as any country song you can think of, and one that Charles knew to be true: music unites people. It just really does," Daniel Cooper writes in the liner notes of *The Complete Country and Western Recordings 1959-1986*.

CHARLES didn't suddenly discover country music. Growing up in Greenville, Florida, the only reason he was allowed up past 9 p.m. was to listen to the Grand Ole Opry.

"I'd be listening to people at the time like Ernest Tubbs, Little Jimmy Dickens, that guy Eddy Arnold — people like that," Charles said. "I loved that kind of music. I had a feel for it."

It was very straightforward music, just like the blues. That's what attracted me to country and western music," Charles played regularly with country bands early in his career. It was a pragmatic move: Country bands got lots of work.

Still, executives at Charles's record company weren't thrilled when he told them he wanted to record country songs.

Sam Clark, president of ABC at the time, "thought I would lose a lot of fans," Charles said.

"I said to him, 'Sam, chances are you might be right. But I feel that I'll gain more fans than I'll lose, if I can do it the proper way.'" He was bluffing.

"I didn't know what I was talking about," Charles said, laughing. "But I wanted to do it, so that's what I said to him." Things worked out just as Charles had told Clark. White fans started buying his music and coming to his concerts in droves.

"What you call the popular market" opened up," Charles said. "I think everything went up from that. Obviously, my fans went up. My concerts changed. My financial situation changed. So everything improved." (AP)

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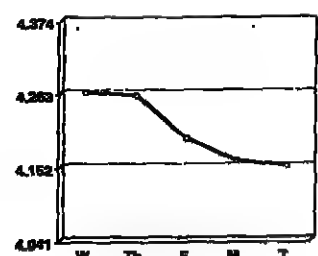
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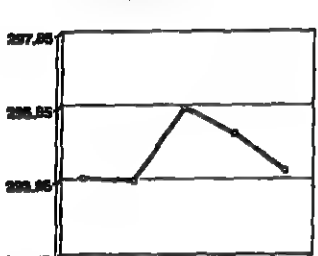
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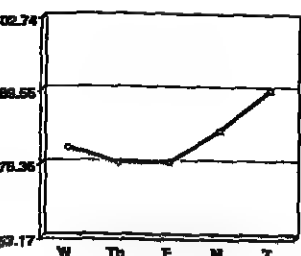
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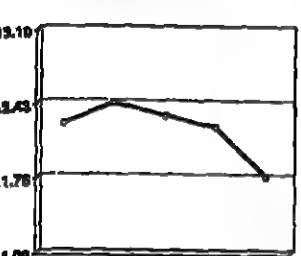
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ICTS acquires American company for \$15m.

ICTS International, an Israeli-run airline security company registered in Holland, yesterday said it will purchase 80 percent of Humbleighs Corporation, a US based provider of aviation services, for \$15 million.

The company said it holds an option to acquire the remaining 20%. ICTS hopes that the purchasing of the American company will enable it to become a worldwide service provider to the aviation industry, as its current business is focused on providing security services for US and European air carriers in Europe. Humbleighs employs 4,000 workers and has revenues of some \$40m.

Dan Gerstenfeld

Discount to finance El Al-Boeing deal

Israel Discount signed an agreement with El Al earlier this week for the financing of an \$86 million deal in which the national carrier acquired two Boeing 767 ER-200 jets. The bank said that it expects to participate in other deals as part of El Al's efforts to increase and improve its fleet.

Dan Gerstenfeld

12 bids for new Jordanian port

The Jordanian government plans to build a second port on the Gulf of Aqaba to handle industrial trade activity, a government official said yesterday. The new port is expected to cost 40 million Jordanian dinars (\$56.5m.) and will be operational in 2000, according to Nasser Madadha, director of the State Tenders Department. He said the port will be constructed south of the existing one at Akaba, Jordan's only sea outlet that is located 350 kilometers south of Amman.

AP

Egypt's central bank pushes for independence

The Egyptian central bank has finalized a draft law granting it total independence from the government, its governor Ismail Hassan said yesterday. The draft law would be soon presented to Parliament for approval. Hassan told the London-based Arabic daily *Al-Ahram* that the bank's existing legal framework, he said, did not give it total independence. As an example, Hassan cited the fact that representatives of the ministries of finance, economy and planning sit on the bank's board. Under the draft law, the president will take from the prime minister the authority to appoint central bank governors, he said. The central bank will also have wider powers to monitor the operations of commercial banks and fine those which violate credit regulations.

AP

Rite Aid to buy Eli Lilly unit for \$1.6b.

Rite Aid, the No. 3 US drugstore operator, said it will buy Eli Lilly & Co.'s PCS Health Systems unit for \$1.6 billion, moving to become a leading supplier of pharmaceuticals to health plans.

Rite Aid will pay \$1.5b. in cash and Lilly will retain \$100 million of cash from PCS. The acquisition will allow Rite Aid to expand in a high-growth industry where it now has a small presence, gaining an edge on rivals Walgreen Co., CVS Corp. and J.C. Penney's Eckerd unit, which have their own pharmacy benefits subsidiaries.

"This is a good way for them to boost their volume on the pharmacy side," said Robert Lzmilian, an S&P Equity Group analyst with an "accumulate" rating on Rite Aid. "It increases the number of prescriptions, and gets more people into their stores, which will help their other sales."

Bloomberg

Beit Shemesh signs deal with P&W

By NICKY BLACKBURN

Beit Shemesh Engines has signed a 10-year agreement worth \$8.7 million to maintain and repair engines for the military engines division of Pratt and Whitney, it was announced yesterday.

The company is to perform depot maintenance on the F100-PW-229 engine, one of the safest and most reliable propulsion systems powering some of the fastest fighter jets available today, including the F-15, the F-16 and Israel's newest fighter jet, the F-15L.

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Annual GDP growth rate down to 1.4%

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

The economy grew 1.4 percent during the third quarter, the lowest annualized quarterly increase since 1989, according to figures published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The data also pointed to a shrinking gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, falling public consumption, and a substantial decline in investments.

The data was expected, particularly in the sphere of investments, according to Dan Galai, joint man-

aging director of Signa PCM, a portfolio selection and management company.

"With high interest rates it's no surprise when these things happen," said Galai. "The capital markets are not functioning, and it's difficult to create investments."

GDP growth fell to 1.4% from 1.6% in the second quarter and 2% in the first three months of the year. Together, these growth levels point to the smallest annual increase in GDP since 1989.

Per capita growth shrank 1%, the fifth consecutive quarterly

decline and by far the highest in recent years.

Investments in fixed assets (excluding ships and aircraft) shrank 19.4% compared to the second quarter, with spending on residential buildings down 13.5% and 21.7% in the other sectors of the economy.

Public consumption also slowed in the third quarter, down 2.3%. Private consumption, on the other hand, rose 3.2%, with per capita private consumption showing a 0.7% increase.

Exports of goods and services

declined an overall 18.8% (19.1% excluding diamonds). Imports shrank at the same time by 3.1% (2.9% excluding diamonds).

Exports to Asia shrank 13% to \$220 million in the first 10 months of the year, according to the bureau, while imports increased 7.6% to \$175m.

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said the bureau's data proves the government must rethink its macroeconomic policies, particularly in a bid to boost exports.

On Sunday the cabinet will hold

a debate on the state of the economy, according to Prime Minister's Office Director-General Moshe Leon.

On the agenda is a discussion of the 1999 inflation target of 4%, which several ministers believe to be too optimistic. Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman last week promised to reexamine that goal.

Leon said he hopes 1999 will be a turning point which will take the country out of the slowdown and back toward an annual growth rate of 4-5%.

FIBI's net down 23%

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The First International Bank of Israel yesterday announced that net earnings for the first nine months of the year fell 23% to NIS 138 million from NIS 179.8m. a year earlier.

The bank, which is the first of the large banks to publish its results, said that profits were affected by the way in which the consumer price index is calculated. Net earnings without the effect of index differentials decreased only 0.6% to NIS 164.2m. from NIS 165.2. Net return on equity in the first nine months was 8% compared to 11% a year ago and 10.5% during the whole of 1997.

Net earnings for the third quarter of the year fell 39.3% to NIS 44.7m. from NIS 73.5m. Net earnings without the index calculating distortion rose 11% to NIS 60.4m. from NIS 54.4m.

Earnings from financing operations before provision for doubtful debts decreased 3.6% in the first nine months to NIS 650.7m. from NIS 675.1m., while provision for doubtful debt rose 2.9% to NIS 59.8m. Credit to the public rose 21% to NIS 30.8b. and deposits from the public rose 17.9% to NIS 38.6b.



Primakov outlines budget plans

US Vice President Al Gore (right) and Russian PM Yevgeny Primakov, sitting at left during a gala dinner in Kuala Lumpur Monday, held talks yesterday in the course of the two-day Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit. Primakov outlined Russia's new budget, which strives to put limits on his predecessors' market reforms by deliberately increasing inflation. Gore did not publicly comment on the measures, which are believed to be viewed unfavorably by Washington.

(AP)

Moody's debt-rating downgrade clouds Japan

TOKYO (Reuters) - Want an impossible job? Try spending more, while borrowing less. Try cleaning up an 87 trillion yen banking sector mess, while your revenue falls. Try appeasing your traditional support base, even though their relevance is waning in the modern economy.

In short, try becoming a Japanese policymaker.

Just a day after financial markets insulted policy mandarins in the world's second-largest economy by ignoring a 24 trillion yen stimulus package, influential US credit-rating agency Moody's Investors Service injured them by clipping the country's debt ratings from their AAA status to AA1.

The ratings cut, long anticipated by the market, adds more straws to the load breaking policymakers' backs, raising the cost of borrowing

for already cash-strapped Japanese companies and giving foreign banks another reason to raise interest rates when dealing with their Japanese counterparts.

It also pulls the rug from under Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, who was to tout the giant stimulus package during meetings with US President Bill Clinton, who visits Tokyo for two days starting tomorrow.

US officials have constantly called on Japan to jump-start its economy by fixing the banks and spending the economy into growth.

"At the very least, it's embarrassing," said Michael Wilkins, a dealer at Credit Lyonnais. "The fact of the matter is Japan got a downgrade. The fact of the matter is the cost of funding will go up for many

ANALYSIS

Japanese companies."

Despite its status as the world's largest creditor nation, Moody's analysts deemed Japan's inability to extricate itself from an eight-year economic downturn and the government's steadily worsening fiscal stance as inappropriate for membership in its elite club of AAA ratings.

It added that the increased debt the government was taking on to fund the stimulus measures was only exacerbating a gross-debt-to-gross-domestic-product ratio that will likely top 100 percent by the end of the fiscal year in March

1999.

"Japan is gambling that its policies will result in beneficial, self-sustaining results," Vincent Truglia, the head of Moody's sovereign risk unit in New York, told Reuters Television. The resulting increase in government debt, however, "doesn't look compatible with a triple A rating," he said.

Of the Group of Seven nations, only Japan, Italy and Canada do not have AAA ratings for their domestic currency debt, according to Moody's officials in Tokyo.

High-ranking government offi-

cials did their best to ignore or downplay Moody's decision, something that financial markets were able to do on their own.

"I personally feel that Moody's may lose credibility with the market by making such a decision," said Eisuke Sakakibara, vice finance minister for international affairs.

Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa declined to comment on Moody's decision, but said he believed Japanese government bonds, which take the brunt of the downgrade, were of the highest creditworthiness.

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סוכר מן הארץ

Papin retires

will need to be a lot of head shaking going on before demolition begins.

FINALLY to the Ashes which began on Friday with the first Test in Brisbane. With frost seating in over here, there is nothing better to complement our hot porridge mornings than watching or listening to the end of the day's play. England's batsmen are in terrible shape both on and off the pitch with John Crawley having been beaten up by a drunk and Michael Atherton suffering a recurrence of a bad back. And with Mark Butcher and Alec Stewart short of runs, England are on a hiding to nothing. There were even rumors that tour manager Graham Gooch was warning up in the nets.

But the fighting spirit of the camp came to the fore in the final game before the Test as bowlers Alan Mullally and Robert Croft steered England to an unlikely victory over Queensland with an unbroken final wicket stand of 36. If England are to do anything this winter, it will be through such true grit.

One man definitely missing from the tour spotlight is Geoffrey Boycott who, after having his conviction for assault upheld by a French court last week, was not retained by the BBC or Sky TV to pontificate on the series.

Enter the independent Talk Radio station who have commissioned Boycott for £25,000 to give his views on the series. Boycott is mounting a fierce campaign to clear his name but it is still somewhat of a surprise that Talk Radio are going with him given that he is guilty of assault.

SPORTS

The injury list means an almost certain start for Dion Dublin with Ian Wright and Paul Merson, who both missed training with slight knocks yesterday, also hoping to play.

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Banin back as Israel captain v. Portugal

By OMI LEWIS

Tal Banin will don the captain's armband after a year's absence in the friendly international against Portugal at Seubal tonight (kickoff 11 p.m.).

Banin, who plays for Brescia in Italy's Serie B, returns to Israel's opening lineup after being sidelined for a year with a knee injury. He came on as substitute in the European Championship qualifiers against San Marino and Spain in September, but coach Shlomo Scharf will start the inspirational midfielder for the first time since August 1997.

Israel will also field striker Ronen Harazi, who plays for Bursaspor of Turkey and West Ham of England.

"This will be a wonderful opportunity for the three (Banin, Harazi and Berkovic) to play together with the rest of the team," Scharf said in Portugal yesterday.

Also starting is Maccabi Haifa's Nir Davidovich, who has taken over as first-choice goalkeeper from Rafi Cohen, largely blamed for the home 2-1 defeat by Spain.

Included in the squad are the two Maccabi Haifa youngsters, Yossi Benayoun, 18, and Shuki Nagar, 21. Scharf said last night that he hopes to blood Benayoun late in the game to give him some vital international experience at top level.

"Portugal today has some of the

best players in the world and we can expect a very tough encounter, possibly even more difficult than the match against Spain," Scharf said.

Israel and Portugal have met twice before. In qualifying action for the 1982 World Cup, Portugal won 3-0 in Lisbon before Israel scored a sensational 4-1 win at Ramat Gan.

Portugal will be out to avenge one that defeat, which ended Portugal's chances of qualifying for the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain.

Portuguese coach Humberto Coelho will have to do without inspirational striker Joao Vieira Pinto of Benfica and Porto central defender Jorge Costa for the clash.

Under pressure from the two clubs, who meet in the league on Saturday and also have European matches next week, Coelho agreed to only call up one player from each side.

The decision gives a chance to Sporting Lisbon's 18-year-old star Simao Sabrosa, who has been included in the squad for the first time.

Israel's probable team: Nir Davidovich; Alon Harazi, Amir Shelah, Ron Ben-Shimon, Arik Benado; Najwan Grayeb, Tal Banin, Jan Talasnikov, Avi Nirani, Eyal Berkovic; Ronen Harazi.

The match will be shown live on cable Channel 5 and there will be live commentary on Radio 2.

Reuters contributed to this report.

All Australian eyes on Warne's replacement

BRISBANE (Reuters) - With Shane Warne out for the first Ashes cricket Test, Australia look to Stuart MacGill to fill the role of spin tormentor of England.

It is a part which Australia's second-choice leg-spin bowler is more than happy to play, although he knows he is playing on borrowed time.

"If Australia wants to pick one leg-spinner and Shane Warne is match-fit, he gets picked, there's no discussion about it," MacGill said.

"I've played four test matches and there's no competition there at all really. He's the best spin bowler in history," MacGill started his test career alongside Warne in the third Test against South Africa at Adelaide Oval last season, taking two for 112 and three for 22.

But it was on the recent tour of Pakistan that MacGill began to

emerge from Warne's considerable shadow.

He took nine wickets in Australia's 333-run win over Karachi then picked up another nine-wicket haul in Australia's historic first test win at Rawalpindi.

With Warne still recovering from shoulder surgery, MacGill was given the nod for the first Ashes test starting in Brisbane on Friday.

MacGill will probably play in the second and third tests while Warne's recovery continues and he hopes to make such an impression that the Australian selectors will pick them both when Warne eventually returns.

"The fact that Warne's not playing at the moment... it may have given me a bit of a kick start, it may have meant that I've played more often," MacGill said.

"But I like to think that I still got picked when he played so I'm not

necessarily just here because he's not playing. I'm here and he's not playing."

In the England camp, injured batsman Michael Atherton is confident of playing on Friday.

The former England captain received treatment from a Brisbane back specialist yesterday for an ongoing injury which has plagued him for the past four years.

A team spokesman said Atherton was confident he would be fit enough to play when the side was named today or tomorrow.

England have summoned batsman Graeme Hick to join the squad should Atherton's injury not improve.

John Crawley has been cleared to play despite being beaten up at the weekend. He suffered cuts and bruises to his face when he was attacked by an unidentified person while returning alone to the team hotel.

Tauziat beats Zvereva at Chase Championships; Spaniards scuppered

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Late bloomer Nathalie Tauziat of France battered Natasha Zvereva of Belarus 6-3 6-1 at the season-ending Chase Championships yesterday to add another win to a memorable 1998 campaign.

Tauziat, who reached her first Grand Slam final in 43 attempts at this year's Wimbledon at the advanced age of 30, booked a spot in the quarter-finals and will meet the winner of tonight's match between her compatriot Sandrine Testud and world No. 1 Lindsay Davenport.

The attacking Tauziat reached the Wimbledon final this summer against eventual champion Jana Novotna with a victory over Zvereva on the All England Club grass.

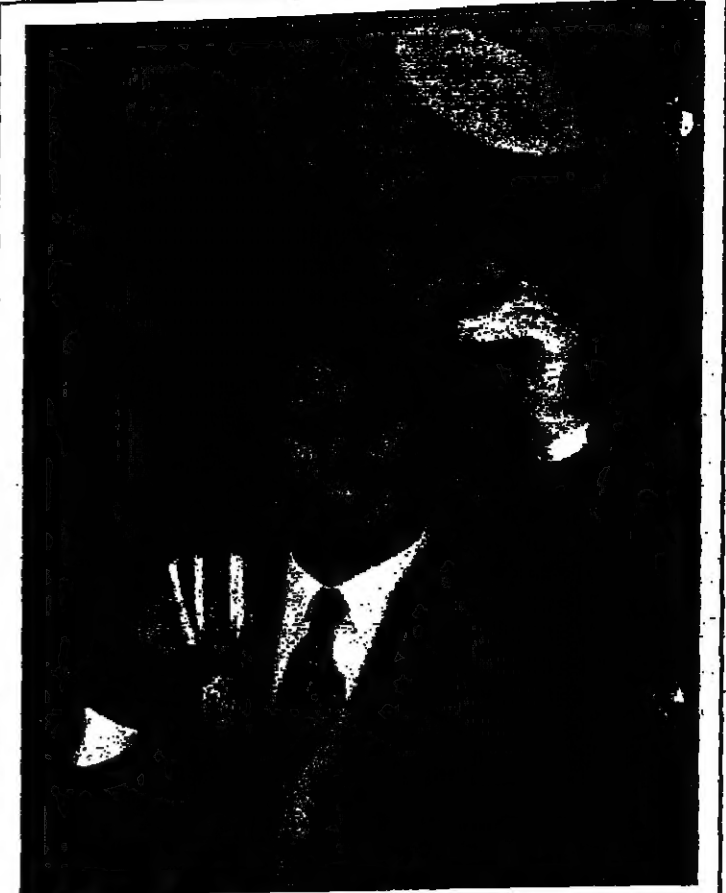
On the blue carpet of Madison Square Garden, Tauziat took advantage of Zvereva's erratic serve, pressed the action and used her own precision ground strokes to control the play.

The Spanish armada flourished on opening day on Monday, clinching the year-end No. 1 ranking for

Lindsay Davenport.

After seventh-seeded Conchita Martinez was ousted by Dominique Van Roost of Belgium 7-6 (9-7), 6-2, fourth-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario fell to Romania's Irina Spirla 7-6 (8-6), 6-1.

Davenport now cannot be overtaken for the No. 1 ranking on the WTA Tour computer. Once Sanchez-Vicario lost, it meant Martina Hingis could not get enough bonus points in this week's \$2 million tournament to overtake the Californian right-hander.



Arise Sir Geoff

Sir Geoff Hurst waves his hat after being knighted by the queen at Buckingham Palace yesterday. Hurst, the only footballer to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final, was a member of the England team which beat West Germany 4-2 in the final in 1966.

Hap. Jerusalem breezes past Bosna Sarajevo

By ELI GROSSER

Less than 48 hours after being walked over at Yad Eliab, Hapoel Jerusalem came out like gangbusters, opening up an early 16-0 lead before rolling past Bosna Sarajevo, 78-67, in Saporta Cup action at Malha last night. The win kept Hapoel in a tie stop Group 5 in the European competition, with two games remaining in the six-team first round pool.

Derrick Hamilton had perhaps his best game of the season, tallying 25 points on 10-of-11 shooting from the field. He was ably assisted by Radisav Curcic, who scored 22 points

and grabbed 14 rebounds. The win came with relative ease, especially considering that Kenny Williams was lost with a thumb injury midway through the first half.

Despite Jerusalem's explosive opening minutes, the Bosnians - who are 0-8 in Europe - refused to quit. Led by Amir Halilovic's six three-pointers (23 points overall) and Samir Leric's 15 points, Sarajevo actually closed the gap to six, 71-65 with two minutes remaining.

In another Saporta Cup game last night, Hapoel Eilat lost to Austrian club St. Polten 93-72 on the road.

Stastny, Goulet in Hockey Hall of Fame

TORONTO (AP) - A city without a team held center stage at the Hockey Hall of Fame on Monday when Peter Stastny and Michel Goulet, who starred for the Quebec Nordiques, were inducted.

"My heart belongs to that city," Stastny said of Quebec's capital, which had an NHL team from 1979 until 1995 when it was sold and moved to Denver to become the Colorado Avalanche.

"To the people of Quebec, hockey is a religion, and we had a rivalry between Quebec City and Montreal that was special," Stastny said. "It is too bad it had to end."

Stastny, 42, now a scout with the St. Louis Blues, and Goulet, 38, now director of player development for the Avalanche, were Nordiques teammates through the 1980s.

Both played 15 years. Stastny had 450 goals and 789 assists, while Goulet had 548 goals and 604 assists, with four consecutive seasons of 50-plus goals. Stastny finished up with the Blues and Goulet with the Chicago Blackhawks, but they entered the Hall of Fame as Nordiques.

In Monday's NHL action, the Flames beat the Red Wings 5-3 and the Mighty Ducks stopped the Kings 3-1.

Detroit	220-3	A-15,896.
Calgary	221-5	
First Period-1, Calgary, Bure 6 (Wiemer, Iginia), 11:48, 2, Detroit, Yzerman 6 (McCarthy, Krupp), 12:57, 3, Calgary, Bure 7 (Wiemer, Iginia), 14:36. Second Period-4, Calgary, Morris 3 (Smith, Fleury), :35, 5, Calgary, Morris 4 (Cassels, Stillman), 4:49 (pp), 6, Detroit, Krupp 1 (Roest, Fedorov), 15:53, 7, Detroit, Fedorov 3 (McCarthy, Eriksson), 18:04, Third Period-8, Calgary, Dubinsky 2 (Fleury), 19:29 (en), Shots on goal-Detroit 7-13-14-34, Calgary 13-12-9-34. Goalies-Detroit, Osgood, Maracle, Osgood, Calgary, Moss.		
Los Angeles	001-1	
Anaheim	111-3	
First Period-1, Anaheim, Green 5 (McInnis), 18:29 (sh), Second Period-2, Anaheim, Davidson 1 (Saele), 2:58 (pp), Third Period-3, Los Angeles, Jokinen 2 (Robitaille, Duchesne), 16:14 (pp), 4, Anaheim, Kariya 8 (McInnis, Rucchin), 19:38 (en), Shots on goal-Los Angeles 13-8-18-39, Anaheim 11-12-4-28. Goalies-Los Angeles, Lagace, Anaheim, Hebert.		
	A-16,057	

EASTERN CONFERENCE							WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Northeast Division							Central Division						
W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS		W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS	
Toronto	9	6	2	56	50	20	St. Louis	7	4	4	42	35	18
Buffalo	7	3	4	40	26	18	Detroit	8	8	0	47	42	16
Boston	6	7	4	40	32	16	Nashville	6	8	1	38	45	13
Ottawa	6	6	3	43	41	15	Chicago	4	10	3	36	42	11
Montreal	6	8	2	35	44	14	Northwest Division						
Atlantic Division							Edmonton	9	6	1	53	39	19
New Jersey	9	6	0	33	35	10	Vancouver	8	7	1	50	41	17
Pittsburgh	7	4	4	42	38	18	Calgary	7	8	2	47	46	16
NY Islanders	8	9	0	43	43	16	Colorado	6	8	2	43	47	14
Philadelphia	6	6	4	41	36	16	Pacific Division						
NY Rangers	4	7	5	38	45	13	Dallas	9	3	2	37	27	20
Southeast Division							Phoenix	8	2	2	34	17	18
Florida	6	6	3	33	41	15	Anaheim	6	6	4	37	37	16
Carolina	6	7	3	38	37	15	Los Angeles	5	10	3	39	49	13
Camp Bay	6	9	2	40	61	14	San Jose	3	7	4	33	35	10
Washington	5	7	3	33	40	13							

NFL

Continued from Page 20

"They wanted to pound the ball on us, but when you're down 14-0 and you're at home, you get restless."

Briser's score, on a bootleg after a fake to Davis, came just five plays into the game. Denver's next drive was even more efficient: a 19-yard run by Davis, a 19-yard pass from Brister to Ed McCaffrey and Davis' long run.

Davis finished with 111 yards on 18 carries, his fifth consecutive 100-yard game against the Chiefs.

Kansas City closed to 14-7 in the second quarter on Gannon's 3-yard pass to fullback Kimble Anders, but Jason Elam kicked three field goals to pad Denver's lead to 23-7 by the end of the third quarter.

Linebacker Bill Romanowski snuffed the Chiefs' last chance when he intercepted Gannon's pass at the Denver 16 with 13 minutes remaining.

"We can enjoy this, but we need to get back to work," Romanowski said. "I think we are mature enough to start working to go 11-0, and that is our whole focus."

Briser's 38-yard run was the longest ever for a TD by a Denver quarterback.

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